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伊藤悠

おまえさえいれば。
もう他に望むことは何もない。

シュトヘ
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寂声

BIG SPIRITS COMICS SPECIAL

幻魔大戦

8

伊藤悠

小学館

I'm with you.

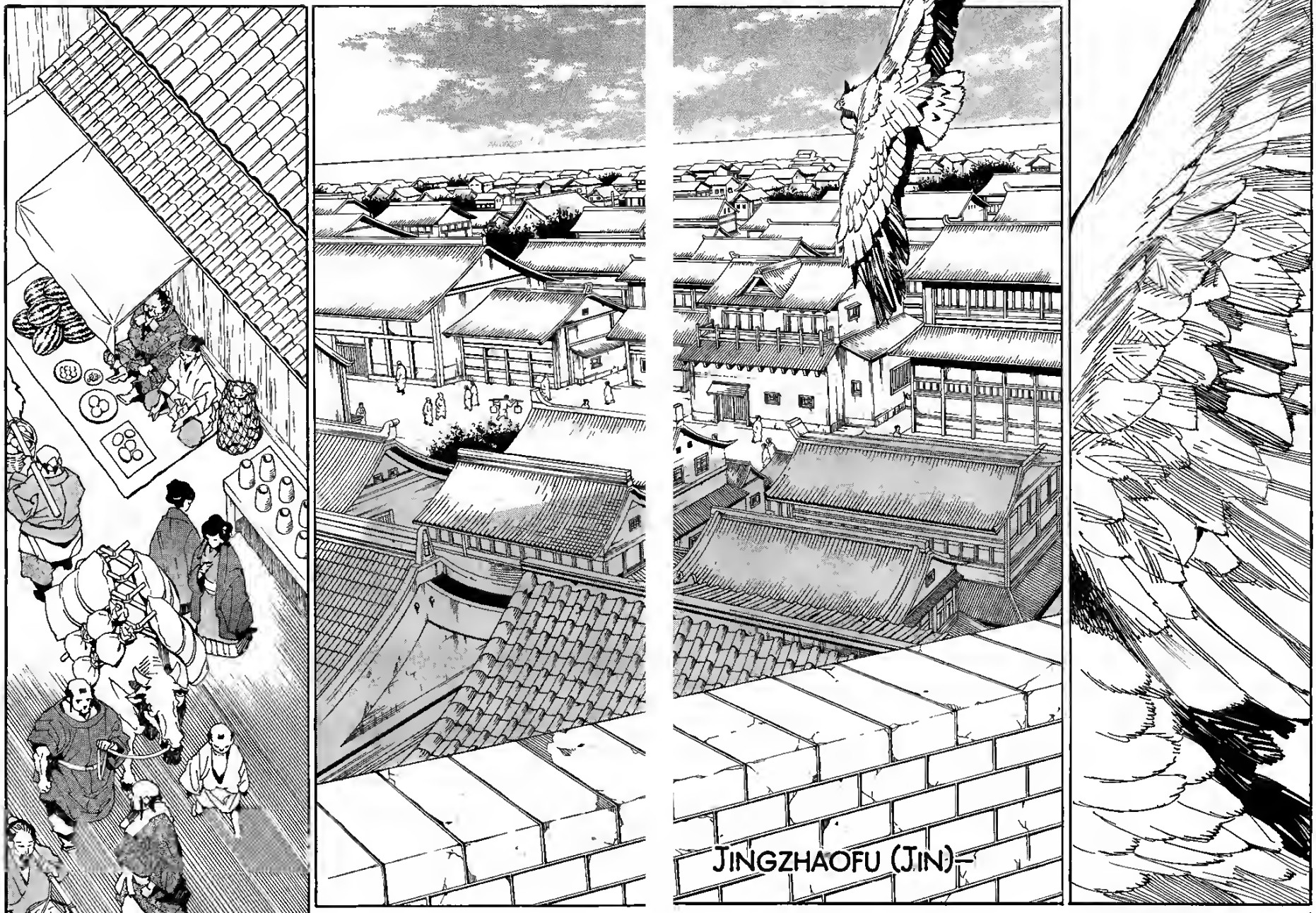
There's nothing else I want right anymore.

海猿

8

伊藤 悠

BIG SPIRITS COMICS SPECIAL


JINGZHAOFU (JIN)—

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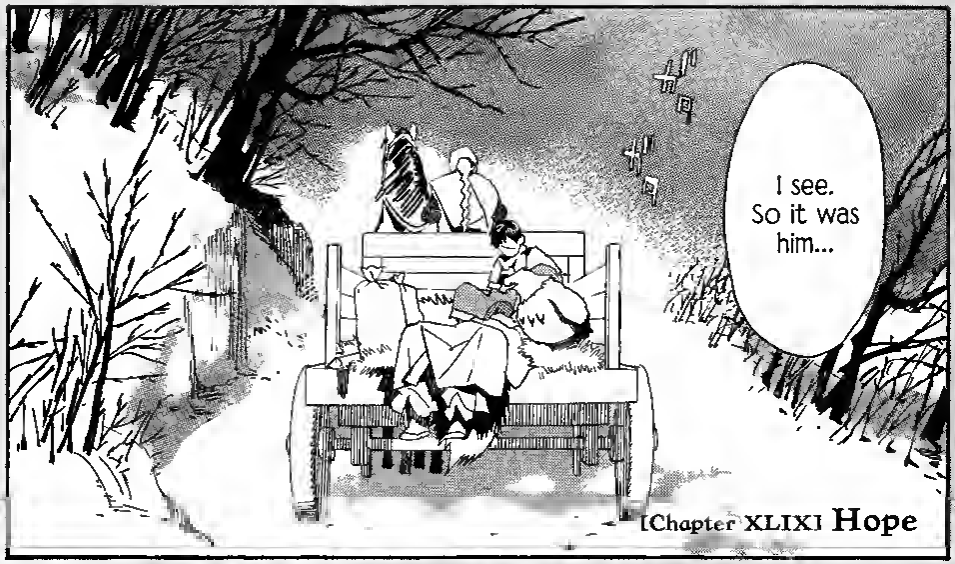
[Chapter L] The Sub-Prefect — 37
[Chapter LI] The Long Rains — 69
[Chapter LII] The Castle Gate — 101
[Chapter LIII] The Evil Eye — 133
[Chapter LIV] — 165

*The characters on the cover and flap read "bad luck" in Tangut script.



[Chapter XLIX] Hope

[Chapter XLIX] Hope

"Please remember."
Lots of times.
"At least about Yuruí...!"
When I first met Sudoh, I was disappointed that he wasn't you.
Next time I see him, I'll have to apologize.
You're a stranger.
You weren't born anew
No
"Lots of times"?
So many it got on my nerves.
I met him lots of times.

So I'll probably be seeing him again soon.

rustle
Bruises fade.
It left a big bruise...

As long as you're alive, wounds close.
Yurui.
Living is a funny thing, huh...?
The marks of my teeth on that man's neck... will fade too.
.....

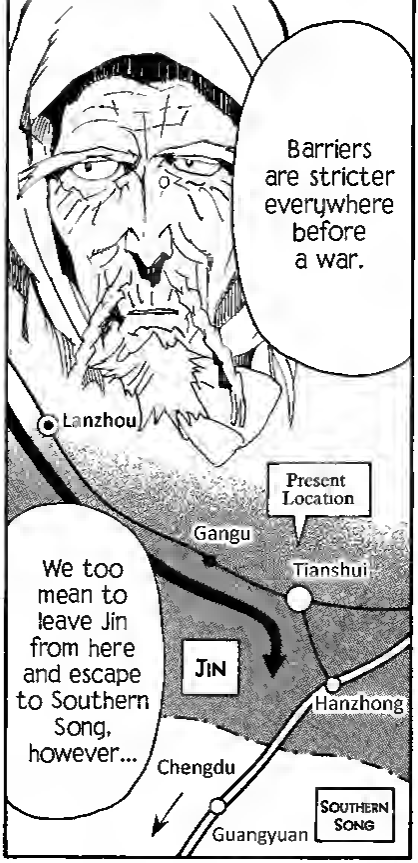
Touching, smelling...

Look me in the eye and listen to me...
Shut hell.
Her cheek is cold.

Do you still
desire Harabal's head?

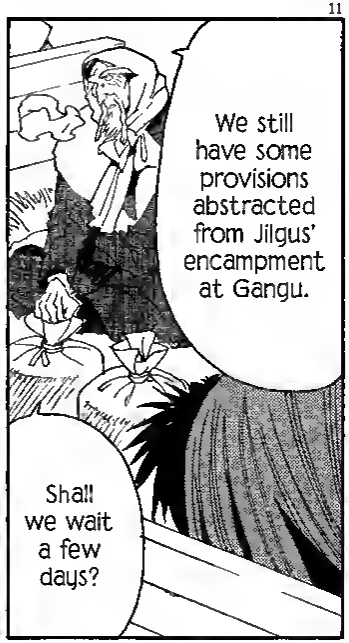
ヒュン
JIN, NEAR TIANSHUI—
10
The people are abandoning their homes and fields and fleeing south.
We've heard the Mongols are attacking from the north!
Open up! Open the gates!

Have these people been waiting long for the gates to open, then?

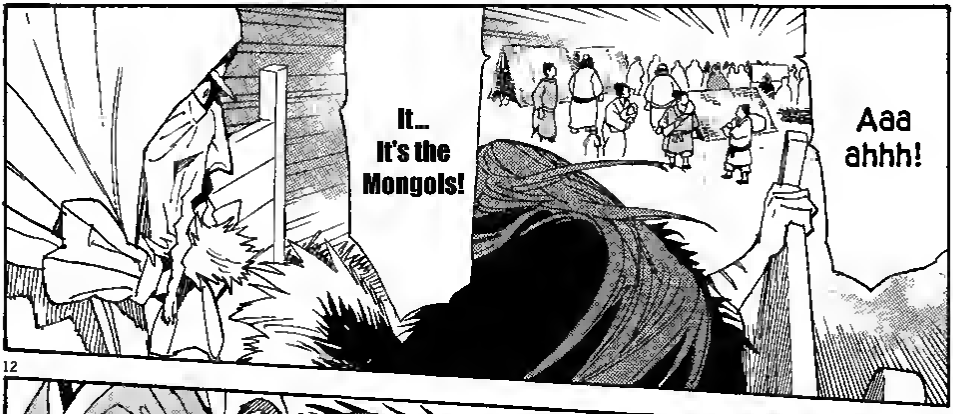

Barriers are stricter everywhere before a war.
Lanzhou
Present Location
Gangu
Tianshui
We too mean to leave Jin from here and escape to Southern Song, however...
JIN
Hanzhong
Chengdu
SOUTHERN SONG
Guangyuan

11

We've been beating on the gate in shifts for three days, but not a single soldier's shown his face.
It probably won't do you any good.


We still have some provisions abstracted from Jilgus' encampment at Gangu.
Shall we wait a few days?

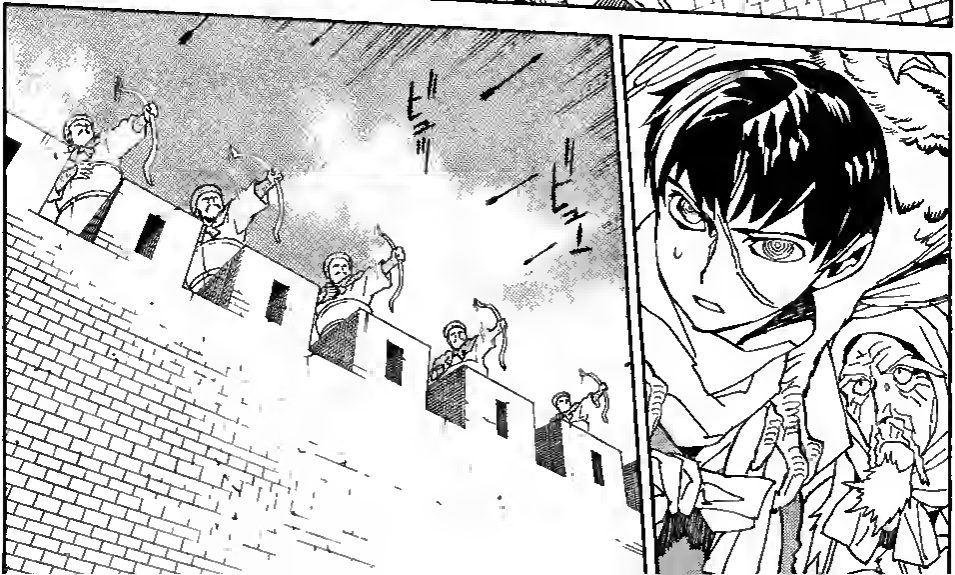
We'll go to Jing-zhaofu.
Zhongdu
Gangu
Tianshui
JINGZHAOFU
Hanzhong
JIN
SOUTHERN SONG
It's supposed to be a large city where several highways converge.
Since it has many entrances, we'll have an opportunity to slip in.

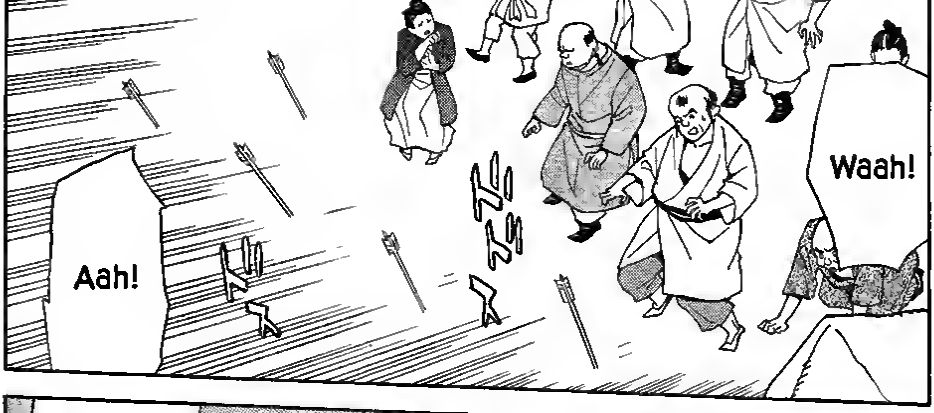

It... It's the Mongols!
Aaa ahhh!

Shut Hell!
Yurul, hide.

Those are...
13

Western Xia troops.




Aah!
Waah!

There are women and children and old folks down here!
Stop! Stop!

Go!

Let go of me!
Hey! What the—?
Eep!

As far as you're concerned, they're only Western Xia.
But those people are Jin—
Ignore them. Fire!

If you're lucky enough to make it to the walls, climb with your hooks!
Right. The number of arrows is decreasing. Advance as you are.
17

Don't think of slacking off, Western Xia. I've got my eye on you.
The Mongols are probably experimenting with attacks on the castles near Zhongdu.
No weapons, seiging a castle with a hook of all things...

Wh...
who...!?

※ GREAT XIA: A NAME USED BY THE PEOPLE OF WESTERN XIA IN REFERENCE TO THEIR OWN COUNTRY.

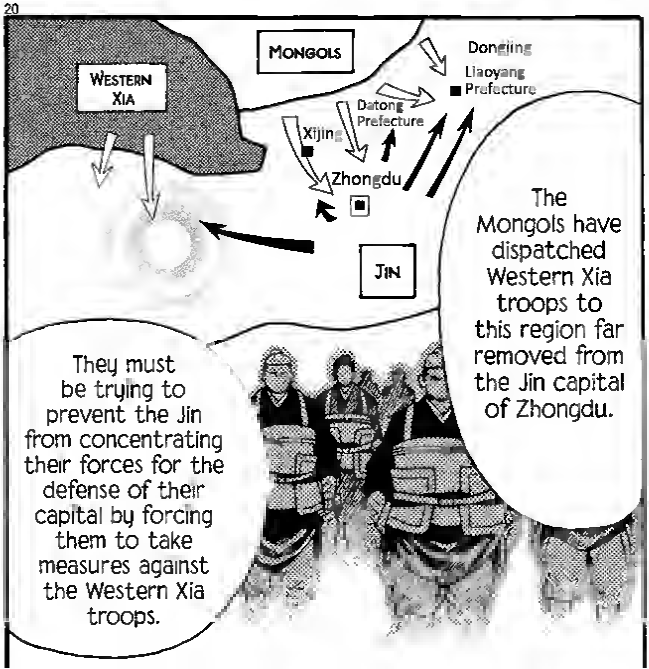
The commander's died in battle.

...Retreat.

トス

The enemy is retreating!

20

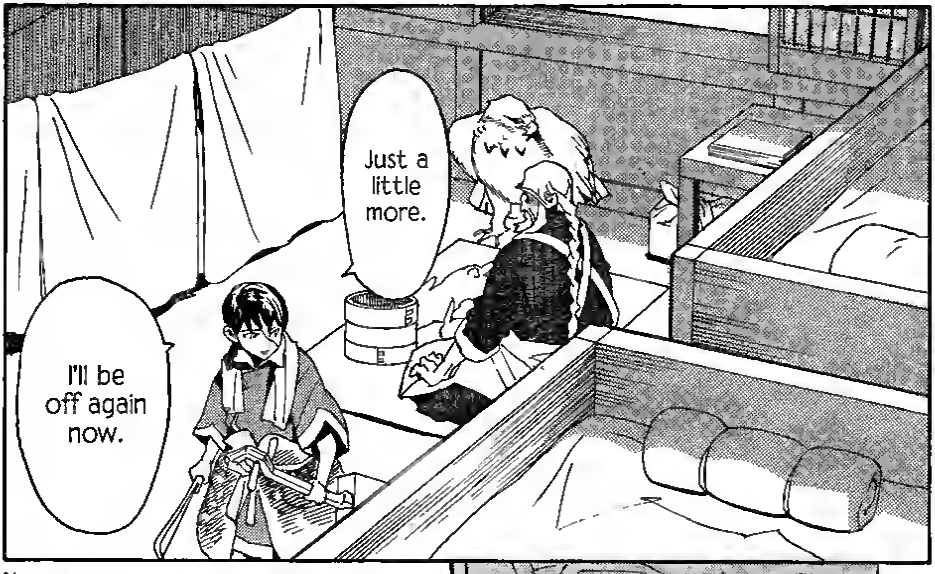

Mongols
Western Xia
Jin
Dongjing
Liaoyang Prefecture
Datong Prefecture
Xijing
Zhongdu
The Mongols have dispatched Western Xia troops to this region far removed from the Jin capital of Zhongdu.
They must be trying to prevent the Jin from concentrating their forces for the defense of their capital by forcing them to take measures against the Western Xia troops.

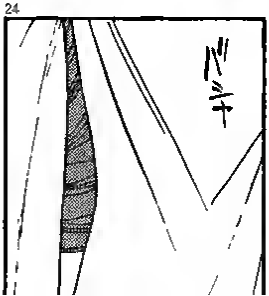
They seem to be waiting and watching, but...

But?

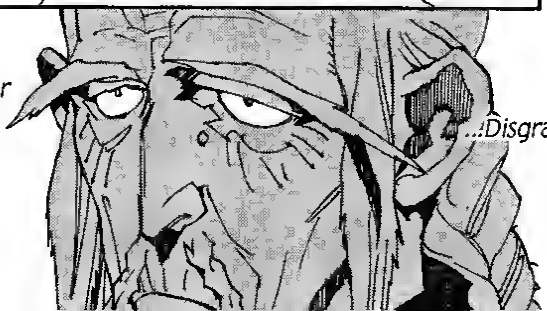
has been completely subordinated by the Mongols...
...This means that our homeland
21
Them...

We can stew them to fill our bellies, or sell them for coin.
Thanks to you, we even have a little travelling money.
Much appre-ciated.





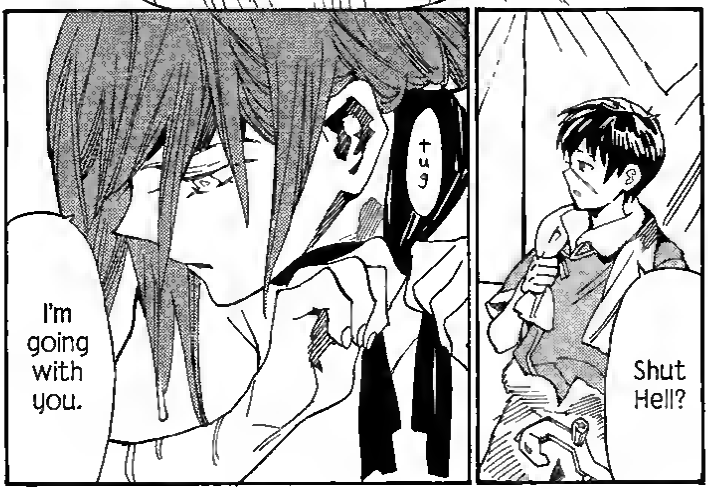
Relying on Master Yurul to raise money...

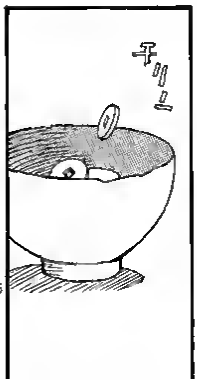


Don't leave without me, Yurul.

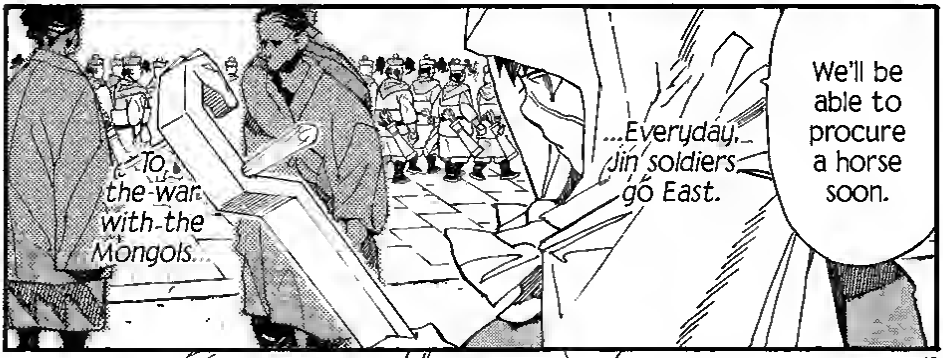
You don't always have to come with me.
splash

It's been months, and it still hasn't faded...

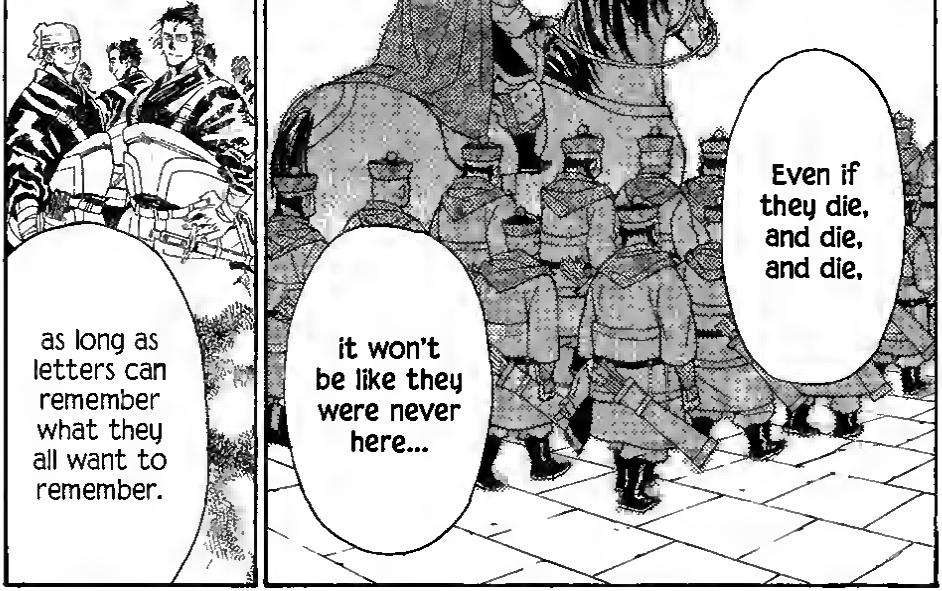

I'm going with you.
Shut Hell?



How much more do we need?
Yurul,


To the war with the Mongols...
...Everyday, Jin soldiers go East.
We'll be able to procure a horse soon.

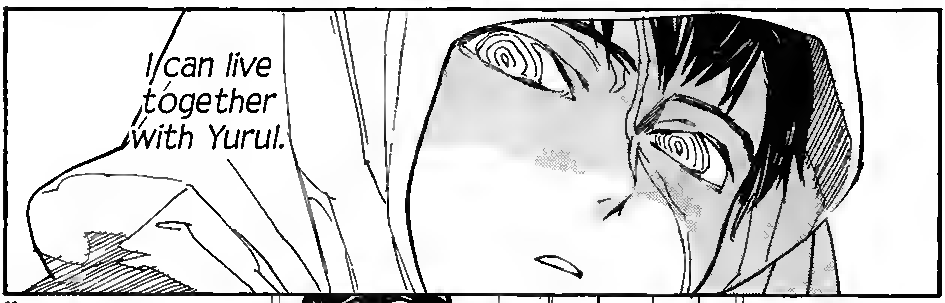
Your letters will remember that they passed through here today.
...They're all going to die.
Buy lots of paper, too.


as long as letters can remember what they all want to remember.
it won't be like they were never here...
Even if they die, and die, and die,

I don't want to forget you again.
Sudoh brought us together...
I want to remember too.
Shut Hell.

We'll make it to Chengdu, no matter what.
With the Voice of Jade... with our writing.

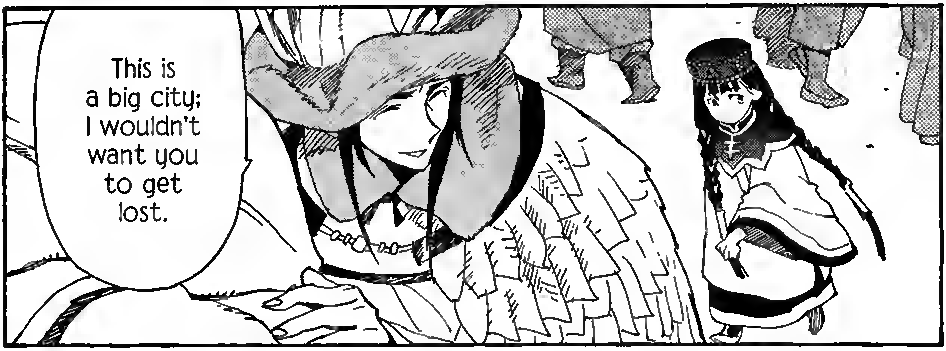
At long last,
...I can't even remember how long I've wished for this.


I can live together with Yurul.

30

No, she's not a–
What a big dog... Is it asleep?
Maybe it's too bright for her?
She'll sleep anywhere...
ばさ

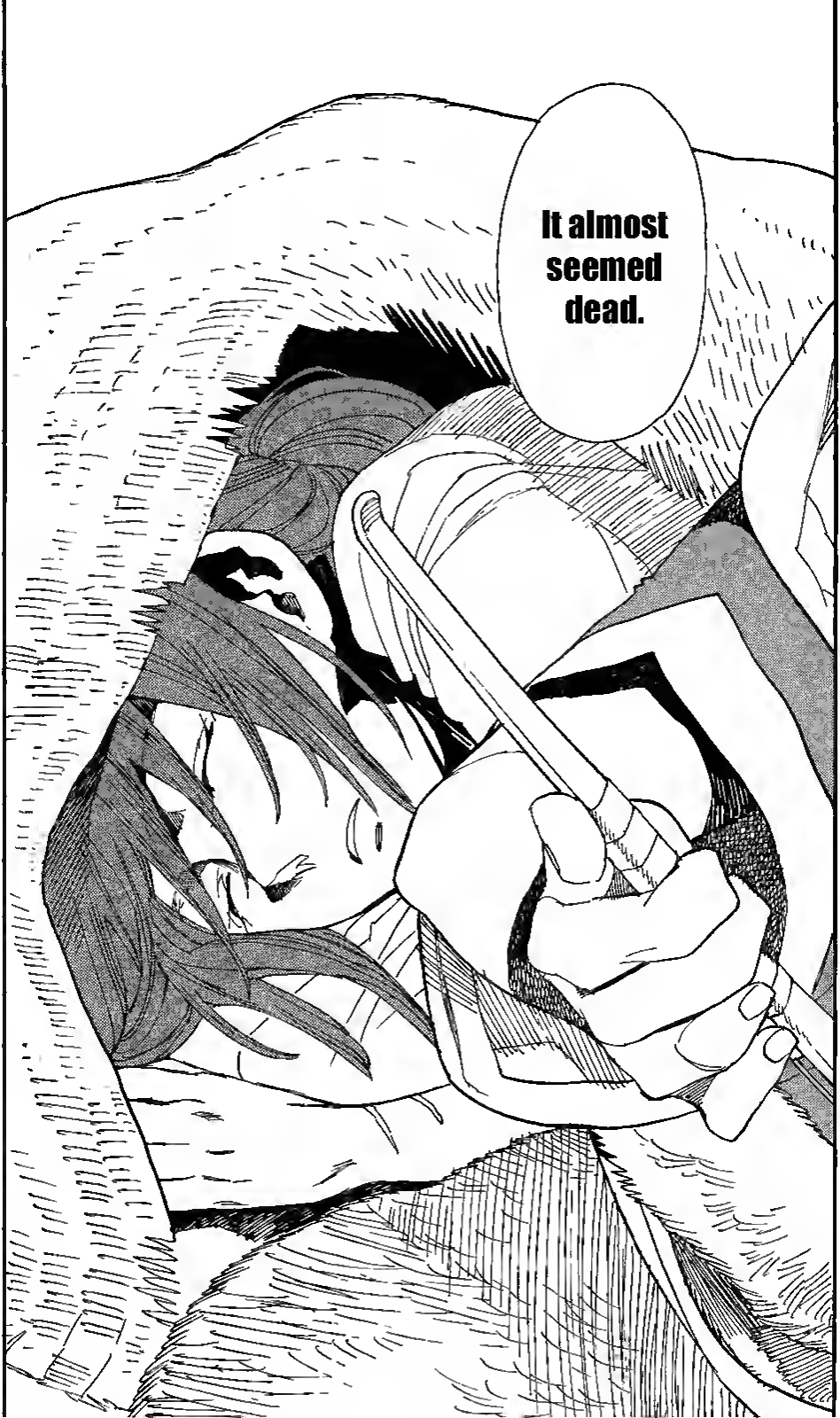
Melumi! Come quickly.

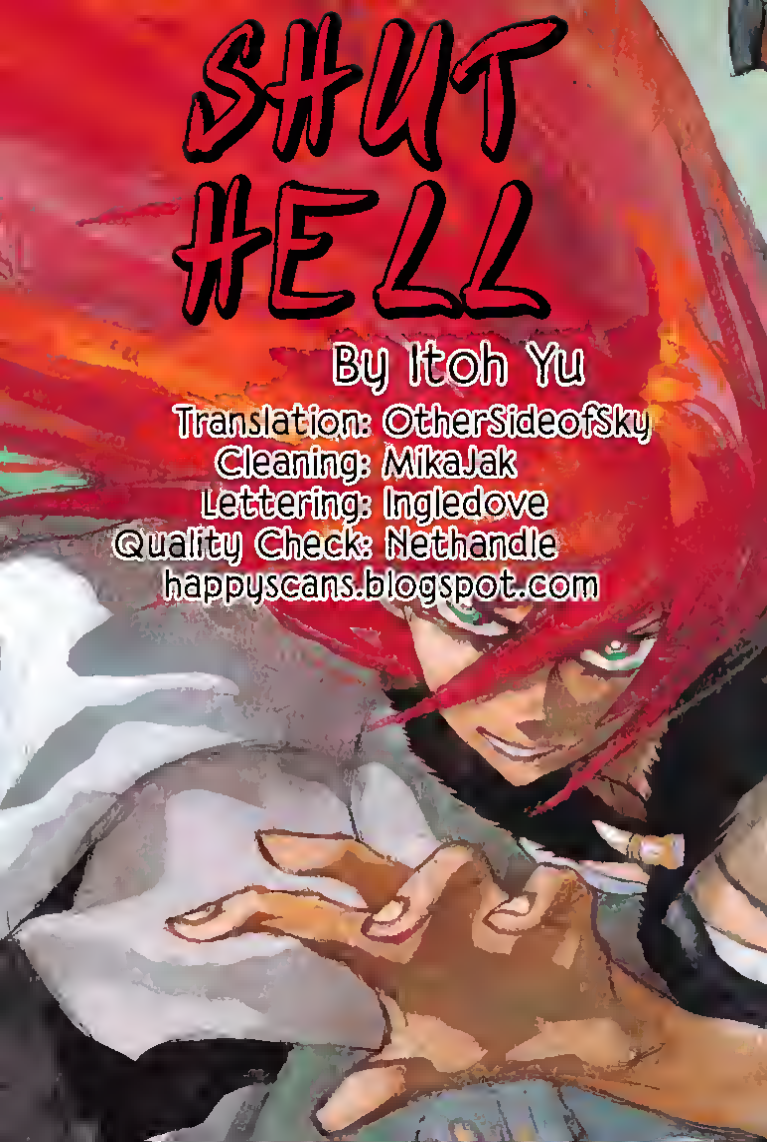

This is a big city; I wouldn't want you to get lost.

31

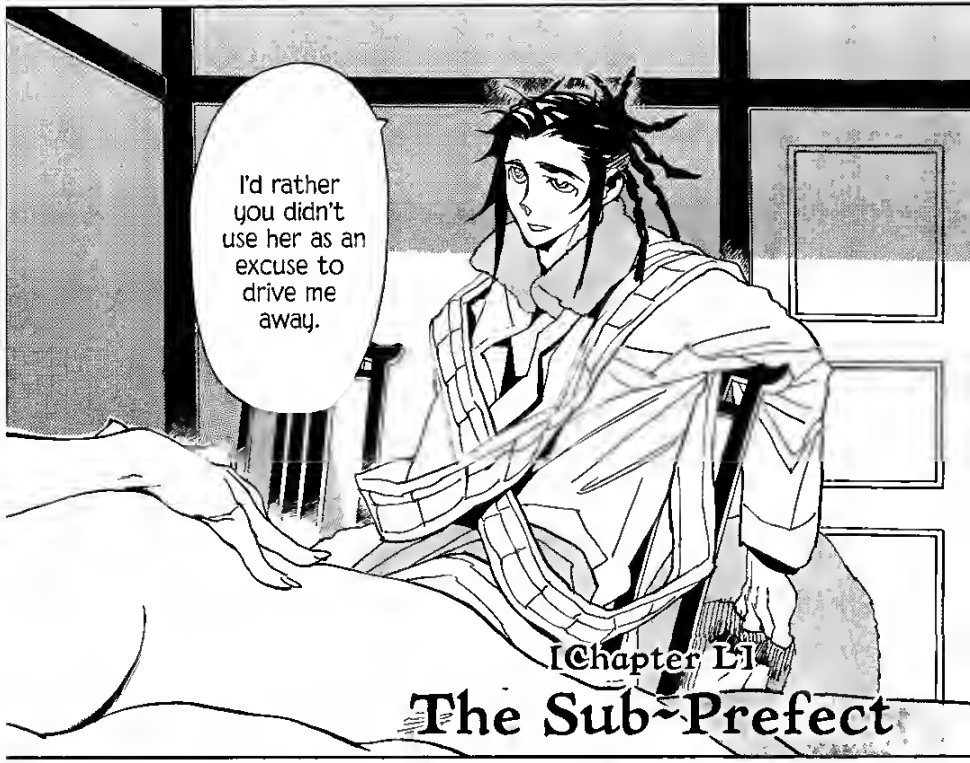
It was a quiet, docile dog.

There was a big dog I'd never seen before.
Sounds dangerous. You mustn't go near it.


It almost seemed dead.

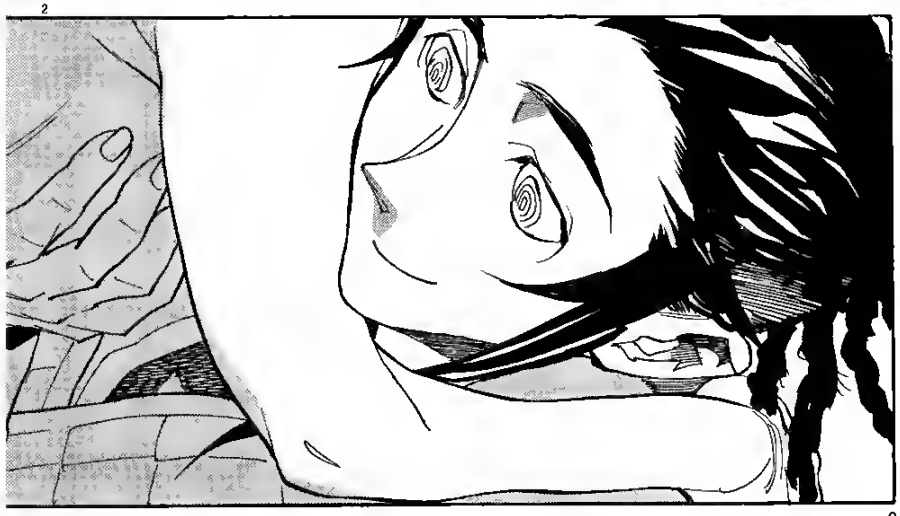

SHUT HELL
By Itoh Yu
Translation: OtherSideofSky
Cleaning: MikaJak
Lettering: Ingledove
Quality Check: Nethandle
happyscans.blogspot.com

[Chapter 1] The Sub-Prefect



Chapter 11

The Sub-Prefect



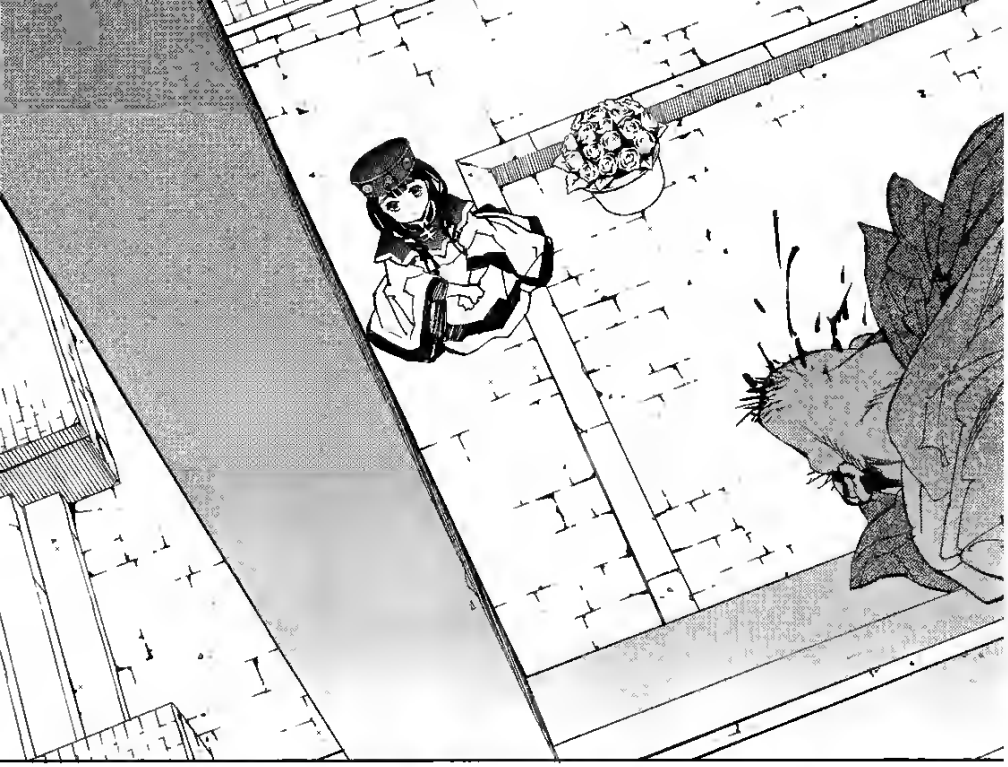
Up there.
He chose a woman and went into the inner room.
She'll get caught up in it.
She's well aware of that.

ドン
ドン

Sloppy.
Now, you must have known that I wouldn't like you
barging in just when things were about to get good.

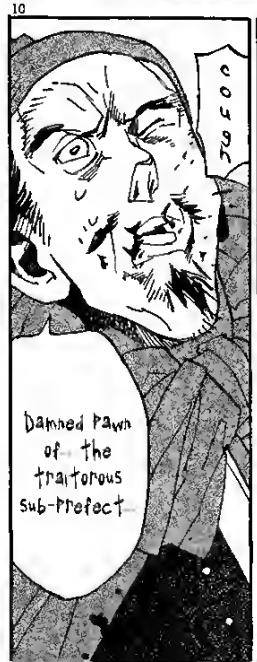
You look more like brigands to me.
Punish the Mongol brigand!

ドサッ
ドサッ
ドサッ
ドサッ

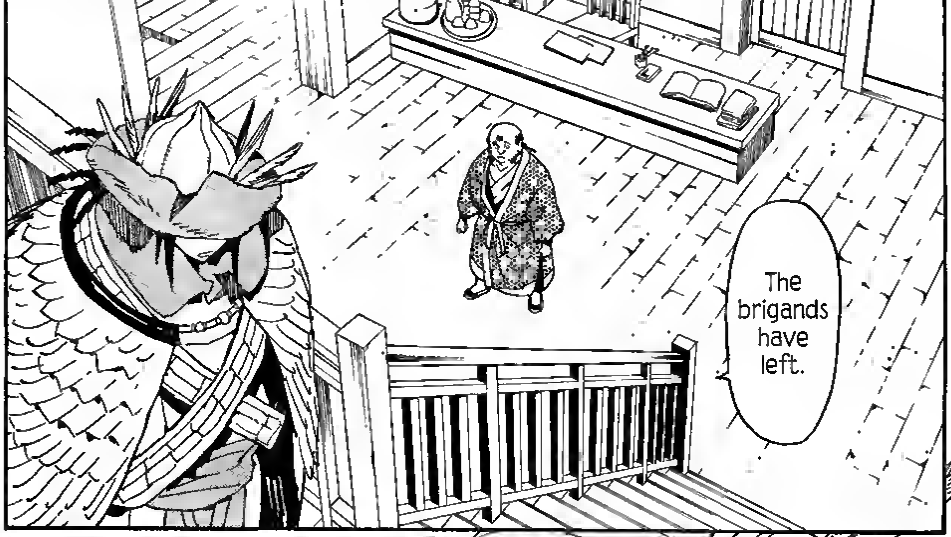


And he'll be prefectural magistrate soon.

He's a business partner.
Sniff


Damned pawn of the traitorous sub-prefect

ドン

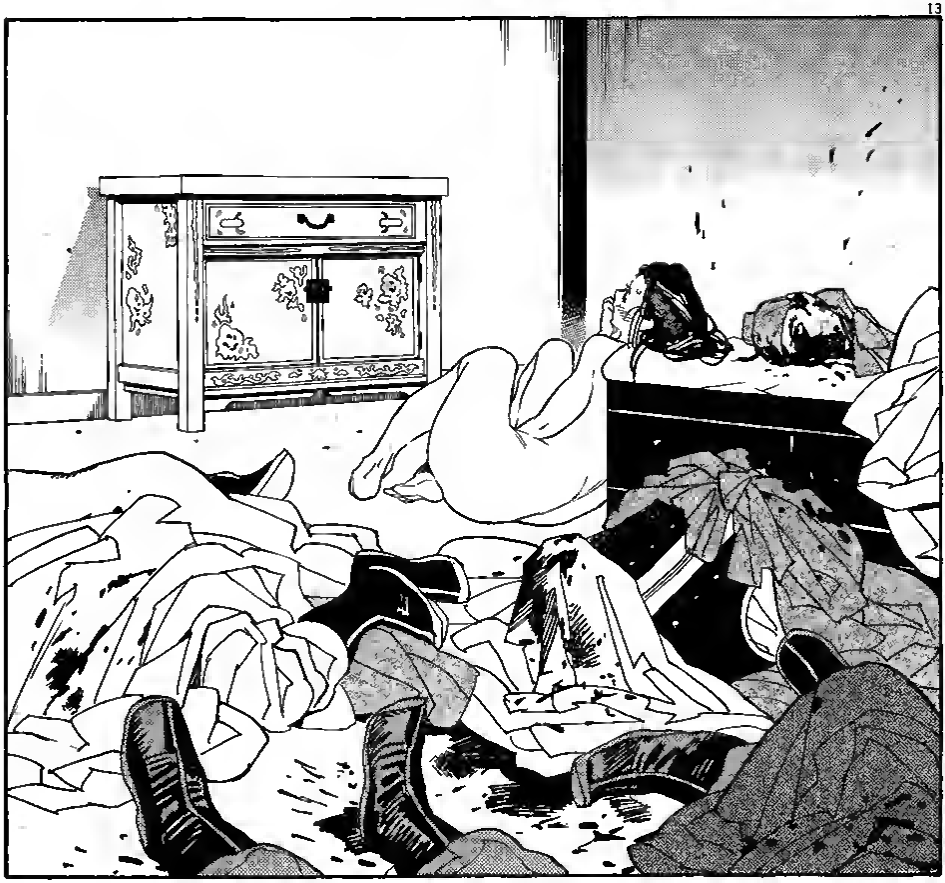

The brigands have left.

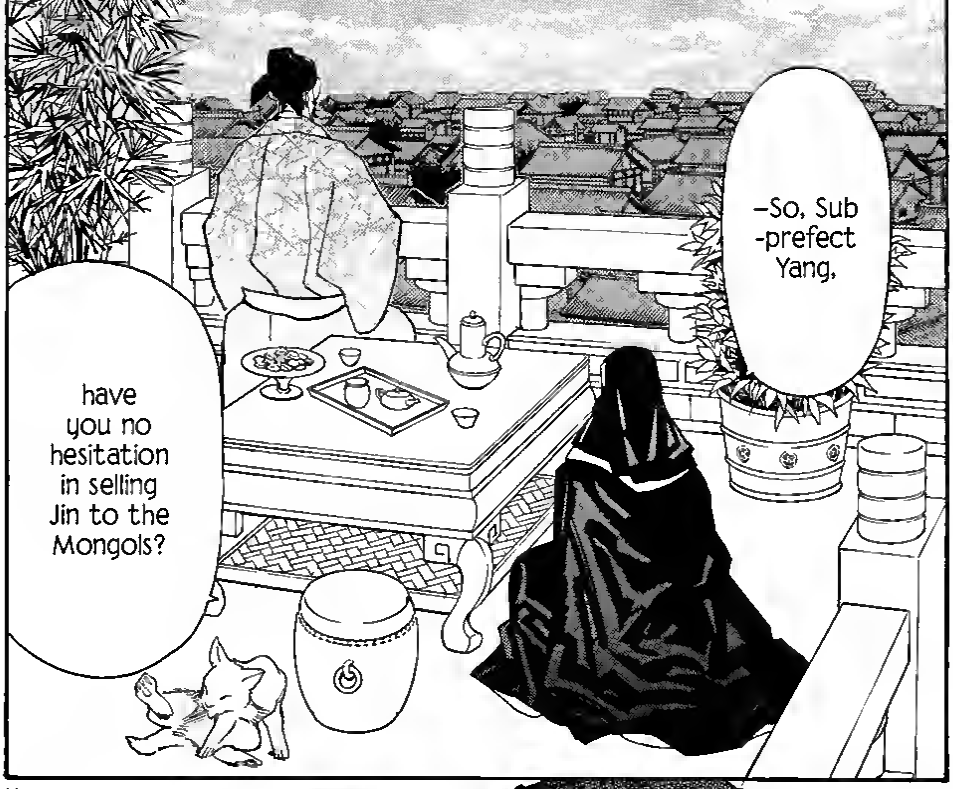
Y-
Yes sir...

Melumi! Come.

Take care to lock your doors.

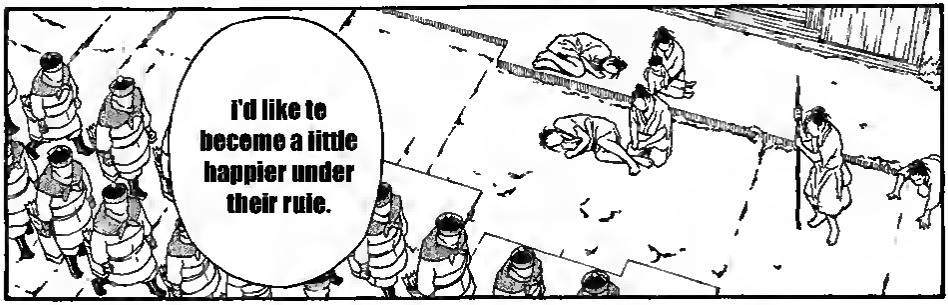
13

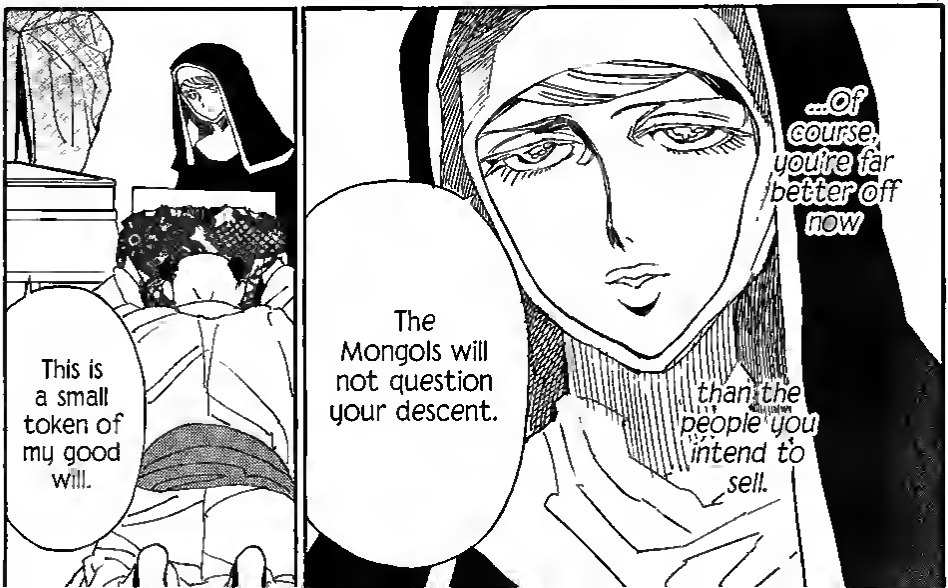


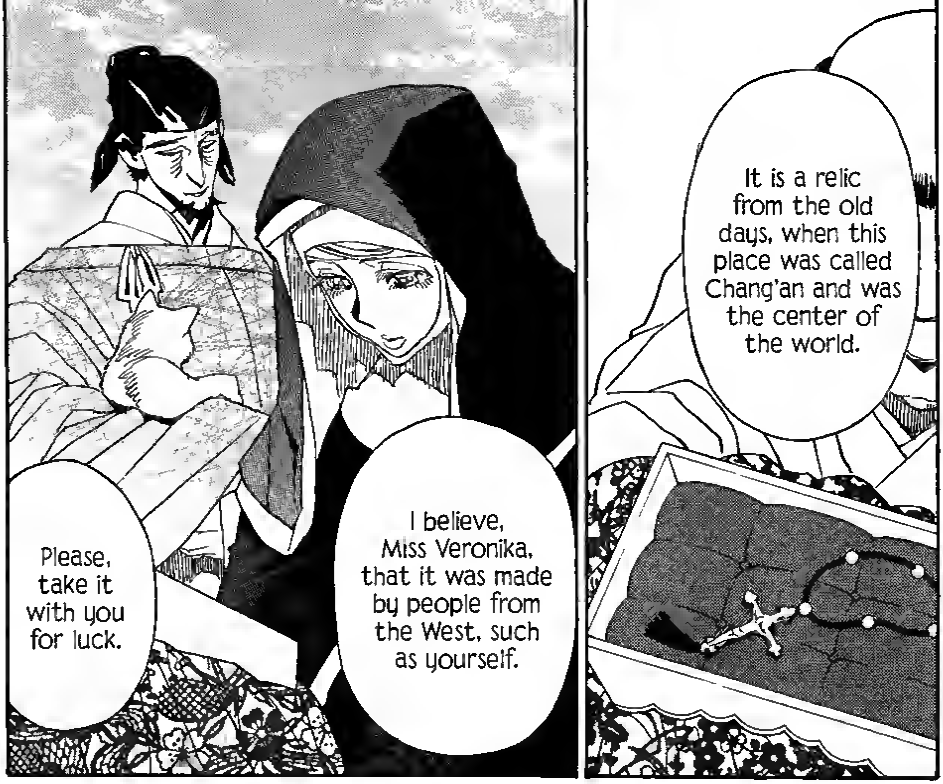

–So, Sub-prefect Yang,
have you no hesitation in selling Jin to the Mongols?

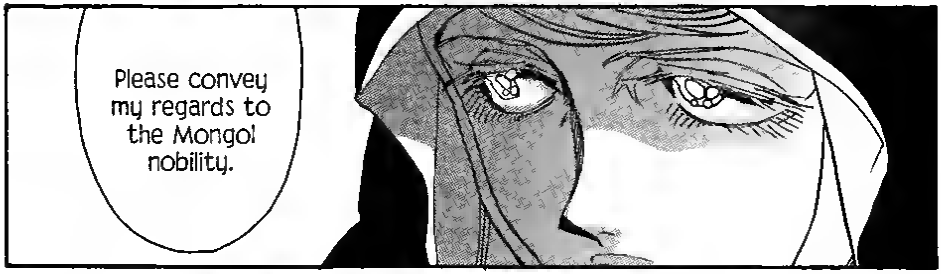
I'm not as ambitious a merchant as that.
At most, I sell a city.
And I will finally obtain the prefect's seat.
I'm sure you will not have to wait long.
SUB-PREFECT OF JINGZHAO, YANG BOYUAN

A Han cannot hope for any higher position under the Jin.
If the Mongols will create a new order...

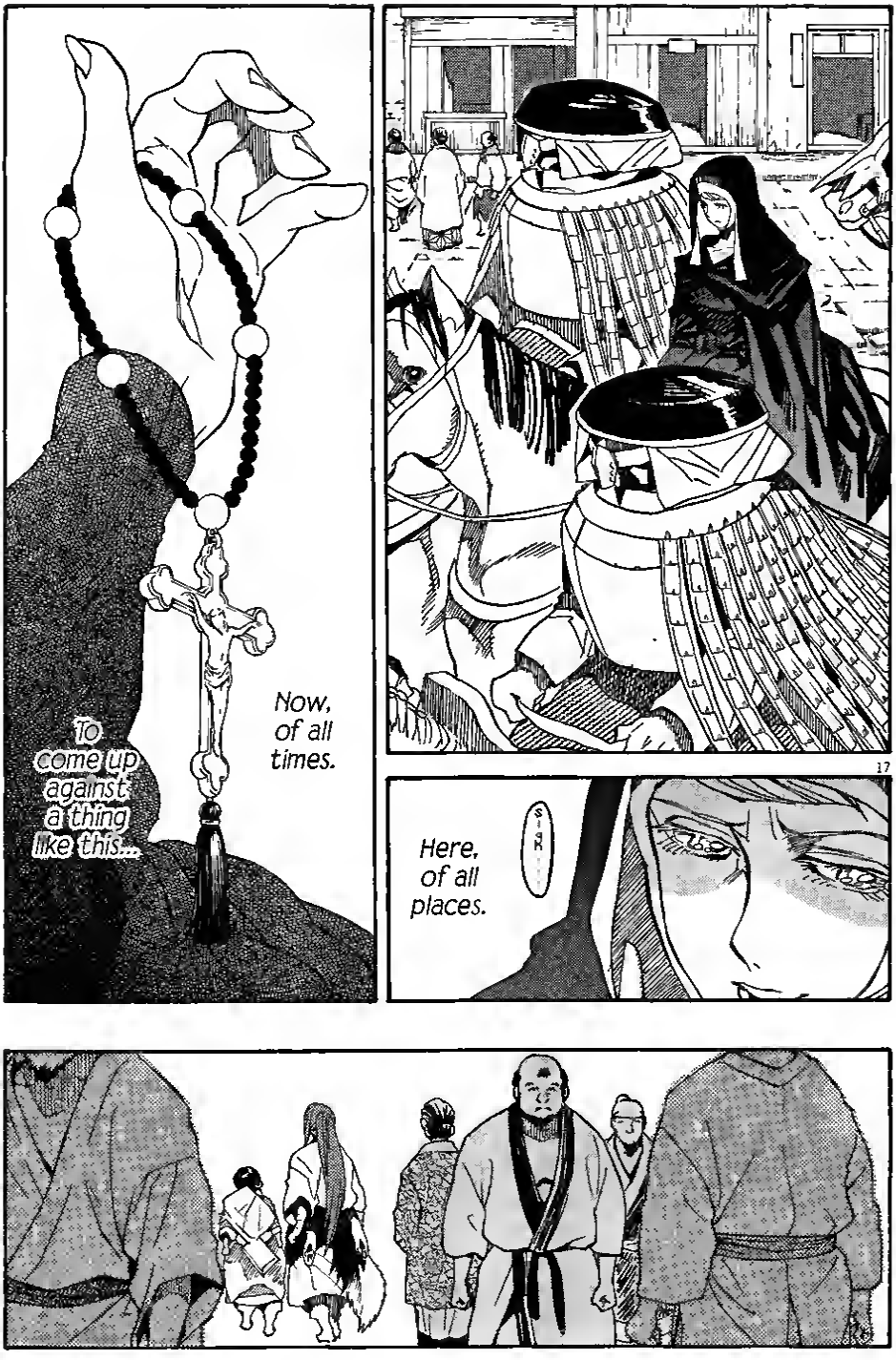

I'd like to become a little happier under their rule.


This is a small token of my good will.
The Mongols will not question your descent.
...Of course, you're far better off now
than the people you intend to sell.

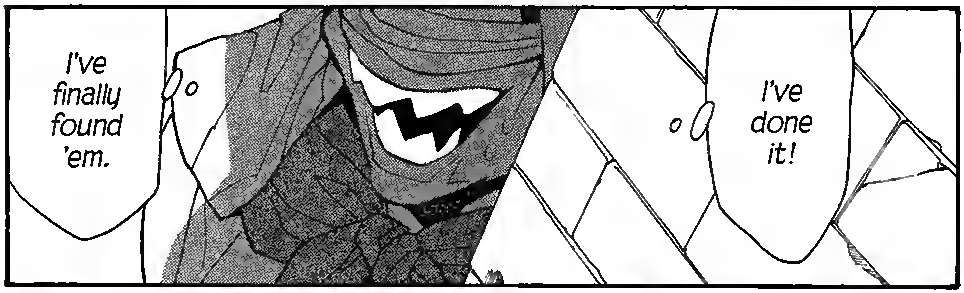

Please, take it with you for luck.
I believe, Miss Veronika, that it was made by people from the West, such as yourself.
It is a relic from the old days, when this place was called Chang'an and was the center of the world.

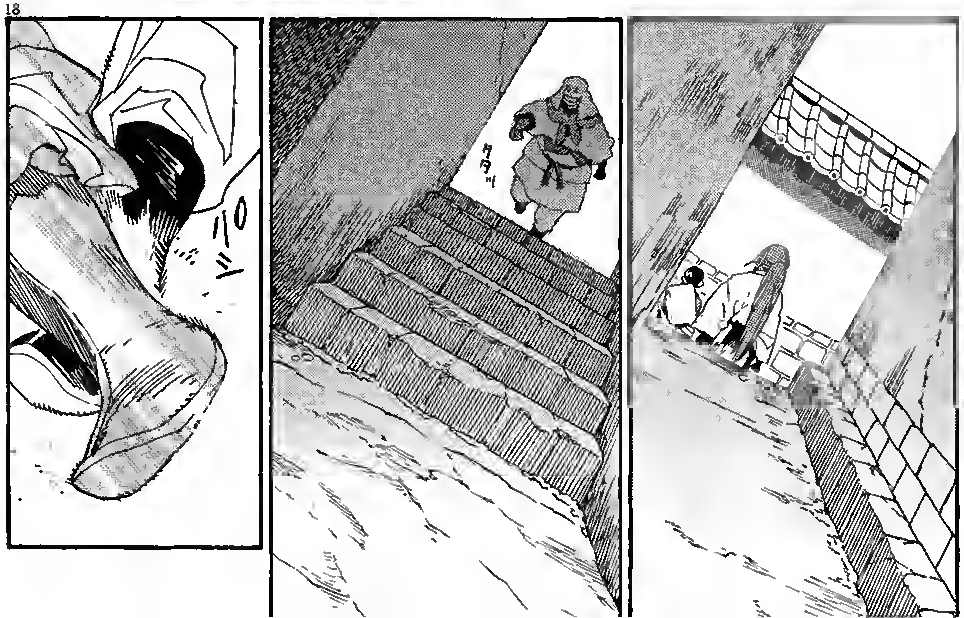

Please convey my regards to the Mongol nobility.

so please take care...
Jingzhao is still a Jin city for the time being,

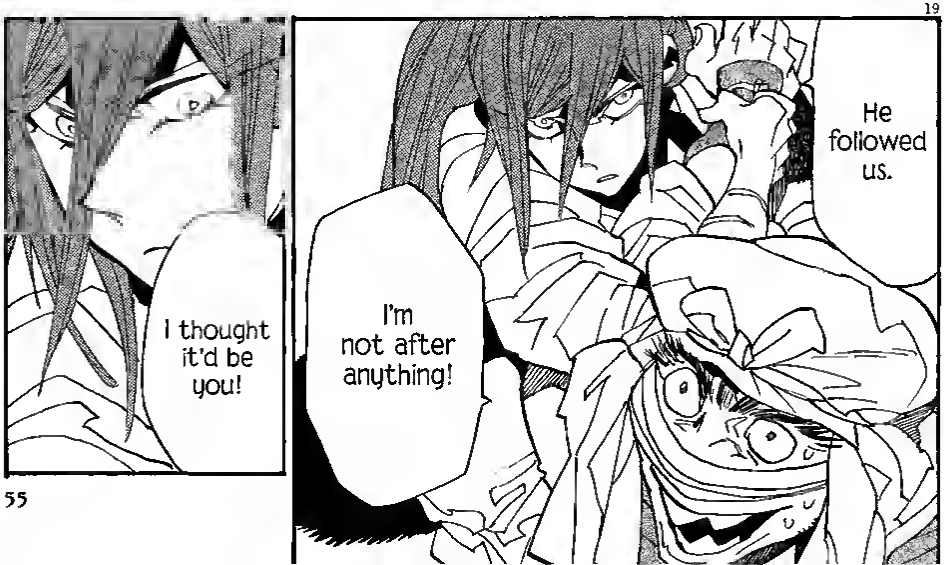

To come up against a thing like this...
Now, of all times.
17
Here, of all places.
SIGH...

There they are!


I've finally found 'em.
I've done it!

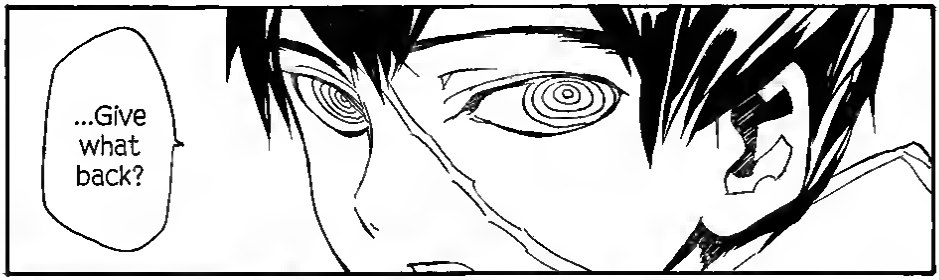


Alunge...

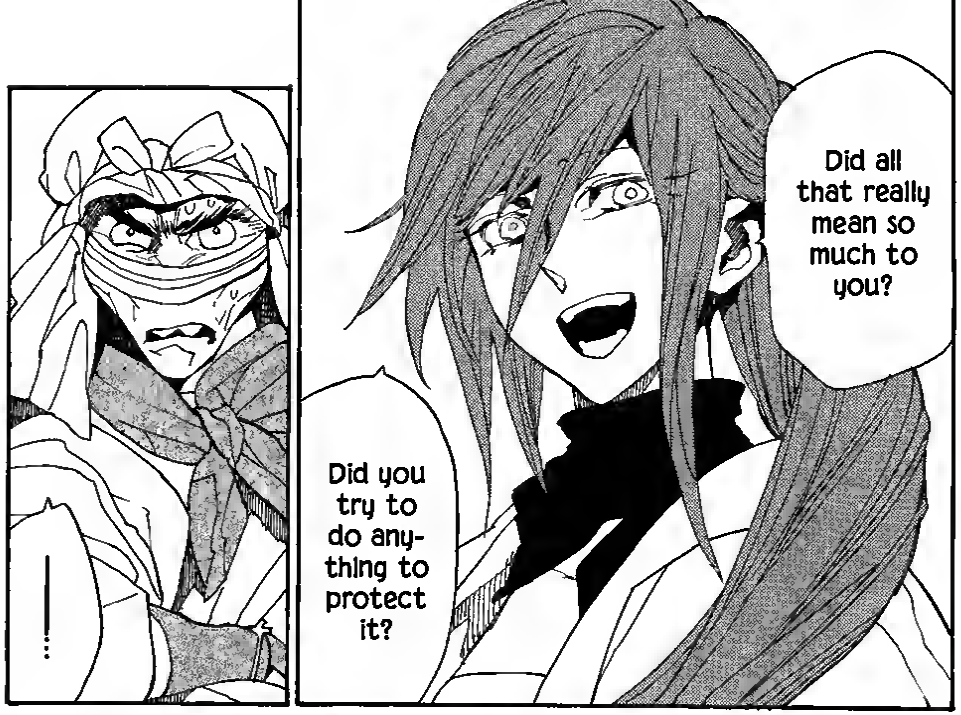

He followed us.
I'm not after anything!
I thought it'd be you!

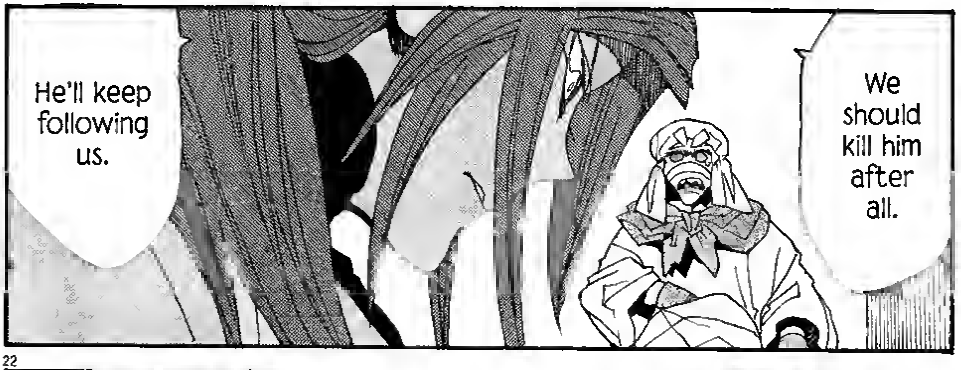
called me "Shut Hell."
"Shut Hell..!?"
You're not just a wolf-woman, you're the real "Shut Hell," right!?
As long as you're here in Jin, you should become a soldier. There might be money in it! Whaddya say!?
Leave him, Shut Hell.
I was just so happy to see a familiar face I couldn't control myself for a minute there!
Why not just give me a little loan...?
Stay out of our business from now on.

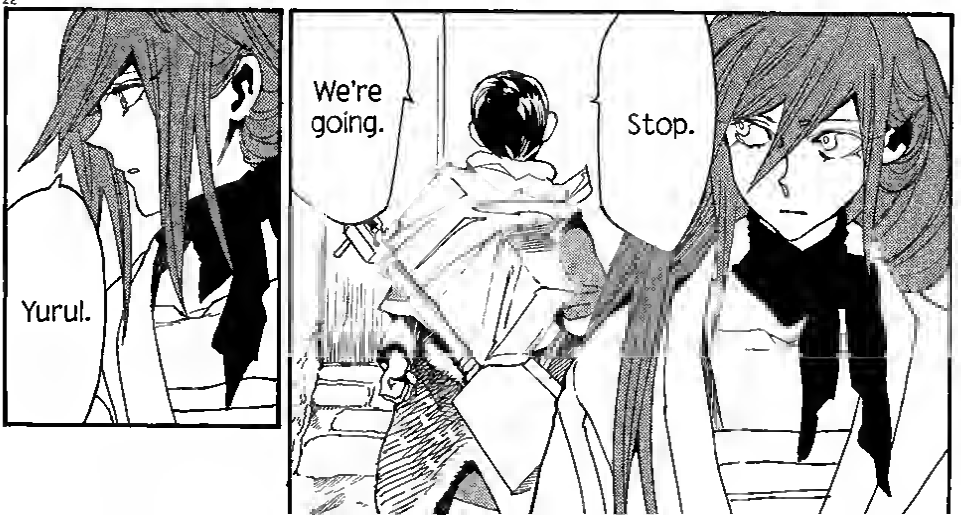
Give it back!
Wait!


...Give what back?

I lost everything because you showed up!
Money to eat! A place to sleep! Even my friends!
Ha ha.


Did all that really mean so much to you?
Did you try to do anything to protect it?
!!!


He'll keep following us.
We should kill him after all.

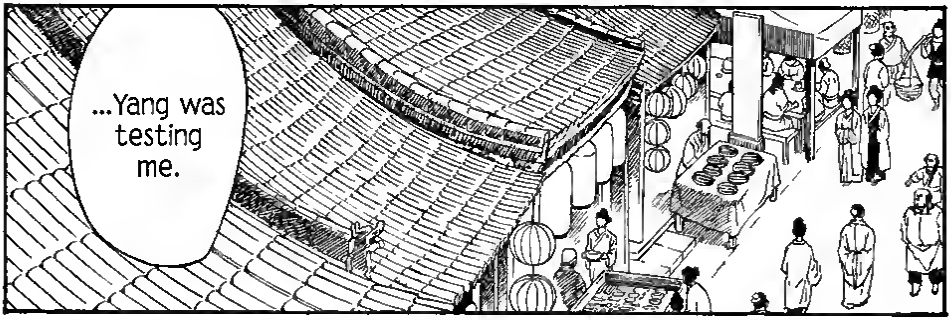

Yurul.
We're going.
Stop.

This'll teach you to mock me!
Slash
Slash
23
Shut Hell!
Heh... Looked like I nicked you.

YOU ATTACKED YURUL FROM BEHIND.

Listen up.
I won't kill you before Yurul's eyes.

You put his eyes in danger.


...Yang was testing me.

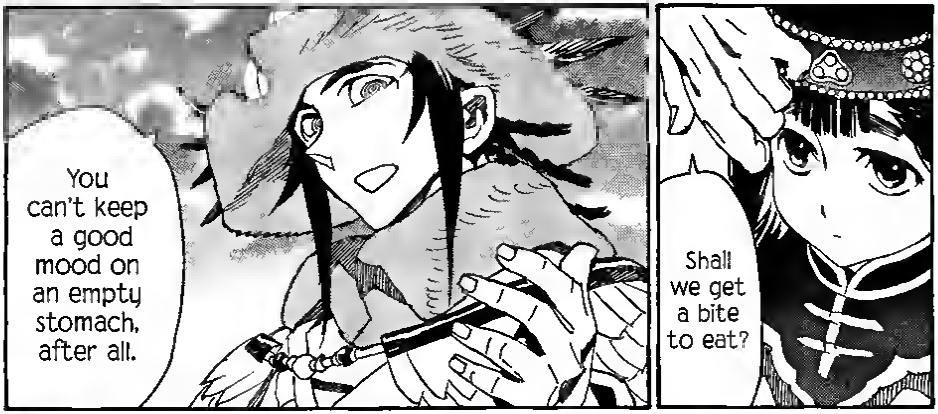
For what, your highness?
Who knows? Maybe strength, or discretion... or maybe simple luck.
By the way, don't call me that in a Jin city.
Call me by name, Melumi.

Assassins of the faction opposing Lord Yang are headed for the brothel.
they mean to slay that Mongol as "that damn traitor's pawn."
...By name...
Thank you very much... Lord Nalan.
27
I'm sure the assassins were unaware
that the source of their information was I, Yang Boyuan, the traitor they so detest.
Wh... why, sir?

My skin is dear to me.
If I am to cross a bridge so dangerous as selling a city...
I want to make absolutely certain that those who are to cross it with me are depen-dable
And if that man thins my enemies' ranks for me, all the better.

I don't like it, but...
being able to manipulate the Jin soldiers in Jingzhao through Yang will come in handy.
I don't really like it.

Well, that's a Han scholar-bureaucrat for you.


You can't keep a good mood on an empty stomach, after all.
Shall we get a bite to eat?

Maybe I should have ordered a little more.
Are you really going to eat all this?

After all, the kind of fun I've been having works up an appetite.
You bastard!
ガクッ
You think I'll let you eat and drink without money!?
Oh?
What are you sulking about, Melumi?
I've got prospects!
I know a brat who just wanders around with some damn valuable stuff!
If I can just put one over on him and lift it...

Damn it all...
Nothing's gone my way since I met that brat.
Shut up and get out!
And that woman...
Shut Hell.
That was Shut Hell...
That was a man-eater's mouth.

I'd like to hear what you've got to say.
Do you mind?

[Chapter LII] The Long Rains

ゴゴゴ

Battle with the Mongols has begun in the north,
and even here, in Jingzhao, people are beginning an exodus south to Song.
It seems there are still some people here who make their living smuggling such people to the south.
MONGOLIA
WES. FRN XIA
JIN
Jingzhao (current location)
Lanzhou
SOUTHERN SONG

they know the lay of the land, and I thought that if, rather than making for Song on our own,
we managed to join them and travel together, we might be able to make our way south in comparative safety.

Oh, sorry.
...Master Yurul?

won't people like that demand a high price for their companionship on the road?
Still,
I guess so.
I suppose there are some days when one wishes to be alone.

I argued that we could do our share in the event of a bandit attack.
We're able to procure our own horses, and, in addition, well...
I was able to obtain a significant discount.
Such rowdiness was unworthy of my years.
Ha ha. I wish I'd been there to see that.
...But was...
was what I felt at dawn a dream?

She really was cold...
And with the sky looking like this, too...
I wonder... where Shut Hell went.
It appears there are problems with public order in Jingzhao, Sub-prefect Yang.
You were attacked by rebels?
I can hardly express my relief at finding you unharmed, Your Highness.

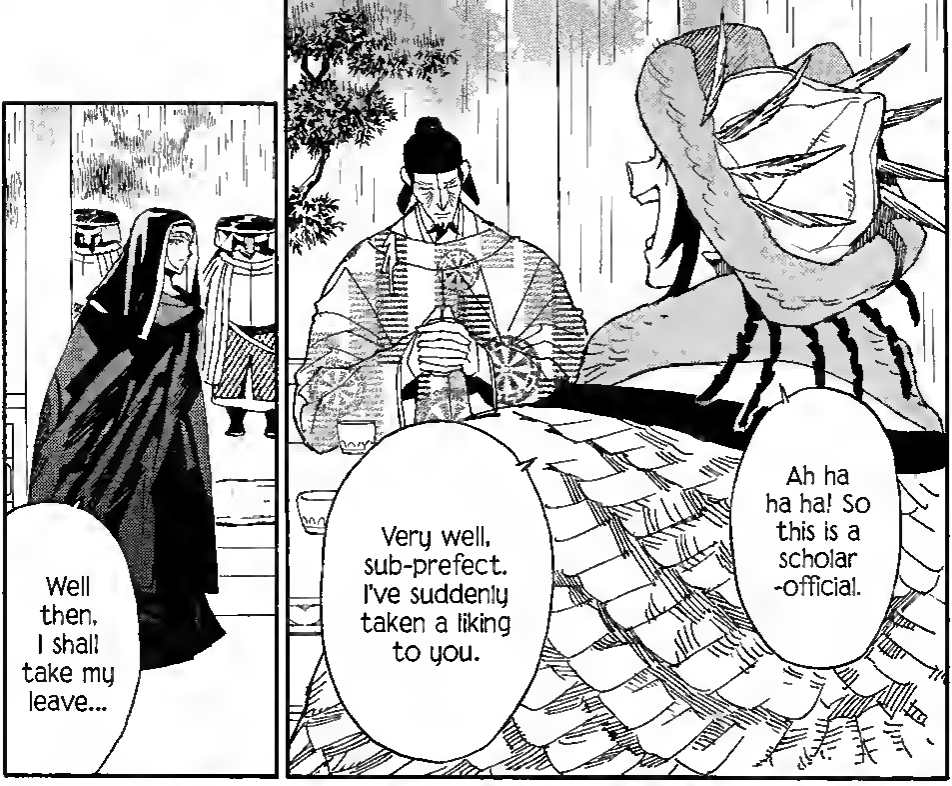
But it is only natural that the people should get into a wild mood when there are brigands close at hand.
I feel morally responsible.
"Worry before the world worries, but take pleasure after all others."
I'd heard that was the essence of the scholar-official, but...
That's an old saying.
Somebody else's problem, then?

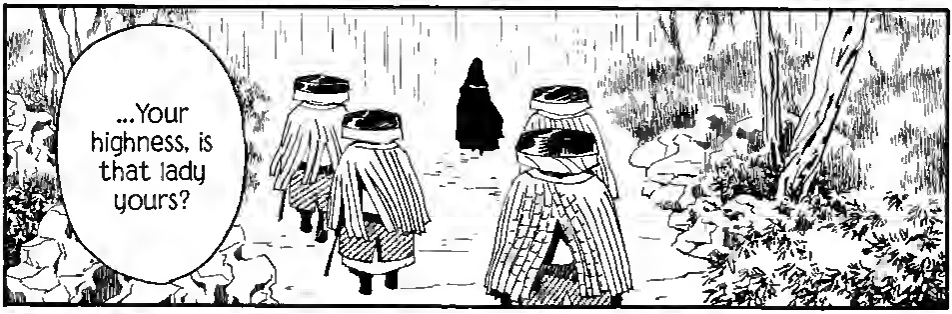
You said the world of the Jin has ended, did you not, Mr. Han Sub-prefect.
Yes.
The world of the Mongols is beginning.
Now is the time to revise old ways.
If one resists that force, it will only enlarge the conflict.
6
We've got a reason to rush things a bit.
Consider the post of prefectural magistrate an advance payment from us.
As compensation, you'll sell us the prefecture of Jingzhao.
Empty flattery.
It's almost embarrassing...

Your signature and seal. I see, if you have writing and paper
you can make a contract, even with someone you don't trust.
7
...Sub -prefect, your hand.
...What is it, Miss Veronika?
The patterns on the tips of each person's fingers are unique...
"Here."
"Take a good look, Veronika."

This will serve as an even greater proof of your intent than your seal.
Your Highness is certainly cautious. There is, you know, a guarantee that I will honor our contract
surer than my seal or the marks of my fingers.
What could a Han official about to sell out the Jin have that a Mongol can trust?

My desire.
I want to make a success of myself among the Mongols and enjoy the best of life... Surely you cannot doubt my desire?
Or my nose, which smells Jin decline and Mongol prosperity?
Ah -ha...
As long as the Mongols are strong, then.


Ah ha ha ha! So this is a scholar-official.
Very well, sub-prefect. I've suddenly taken a liking to you.
Well then, I shall take my leave...


...Your highness, is that lady yours?

Today marks the beginning of our friendship, so let me tell you something.
Pardon me, but you have strange tastes, Sub-prefect.
She has eyes like lakes.

That woman is a rotten, poison -spewing bog.
Lady Veronika.
This is far enough.
Shakira.

I will defend this town against the heathen threat.
...might be a witch?
Do you think so, Sister Veronika?
How to mix medicinal herbs, how to stop blood flow and close wounds. You sure are sharp.
You've already mastered it all.
Some of them have been saved by your medicines Shakira
It's only a little but the people suffering from illness in this town have grown fewer
cursed witch...!
God will not forgive you...
Have you heard the ...ry of ...ter
Vero-nika.
You mean the legend of Presbyter Johannes?
That there's a great Christian king in the farthest East.
They say ...gathering ...army to ...West and ...the Holy ...f Jerusa-...lem the ...thens.

I'll show you.
Alright. I'll believe in the same god as you.
I want to be with you.
Fire!
Witch!
Cleanse her with fire!

Why I have to keep making the Mongols stronger.
That's why.
I'll show you your countries being burned by my lord.
14
cannot be allowed to exist.
If... by some chance, someone were to see his back, I...
"Slave of the Western Xia"...
The Tangut script, which forms the scars on his back,
and the Voice of Jade, on which it is carved,

That man didn't look like he'd be a very good liar, did he, Melumi?
According to that man, it seems my "little brother" is in Jingzhao.
If we rush our payment to Sub-prefect Yang, we can capture him here.
"Execute the rebel tribes."

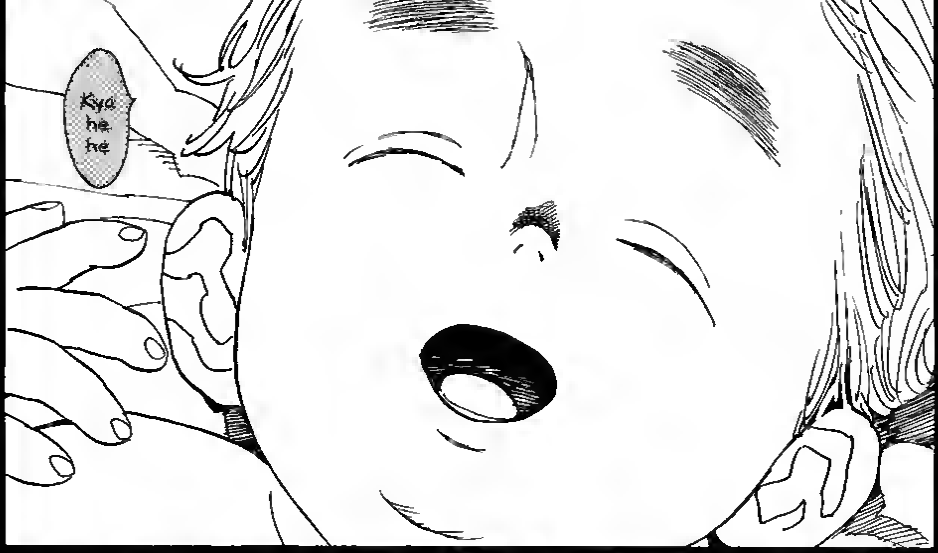
A village of nothing but shamans.
Their songs put beasts to sleep. Even horses that get too close
A river divides the village east to west. About the same number of houses on either side.
Nalan will go from the east, and Tolui from the west.
Kill them all in a single night.

I'll come to check in the morning.
Whoever kills more wins.
Both of them knew that the winner would likely succeed their father.
17

They were fully prepared.
SIOP
They enjoyed that night.

Pit
Pat
Nalan, is this the last house?
20
Probably.
Are you alright, Tolui?
Killing's just tired me out. You look full of energy.

...Two, four, six, eight,
twenty, and... two, four.
The same number.
You found that girl, Nalan, so I guess you win.
She doesn't cry.
Even though she's a baby, she knows it's pointless.
Hssss!

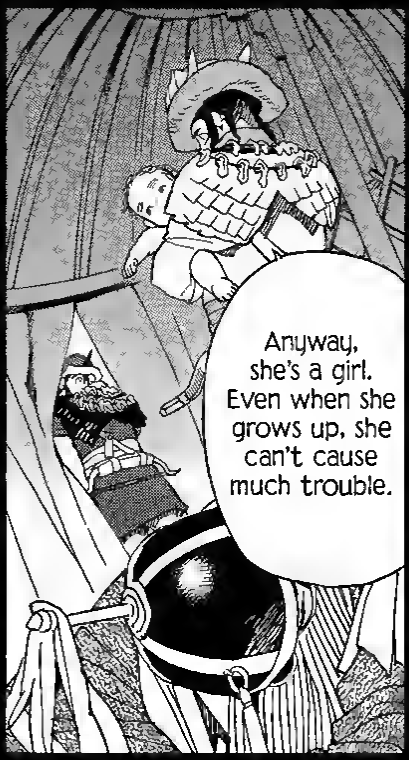

Kya
he
he

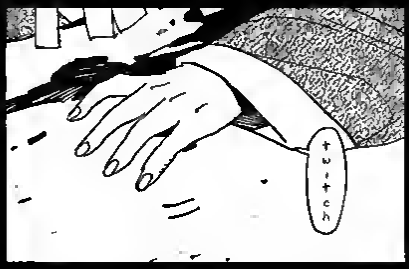
Huh?
This girl will be useful to the Mongols one day.
...Tolui.

We'll use it in battle.
If all the people here can do it, then it must be innate, not training.

That khoomei carries through the ground.

But Nalan, father said to kill every last one.
Besides... it might invite disaster.


Anyway, she's a girl. Even when she grows up, she can't cause much trouble.

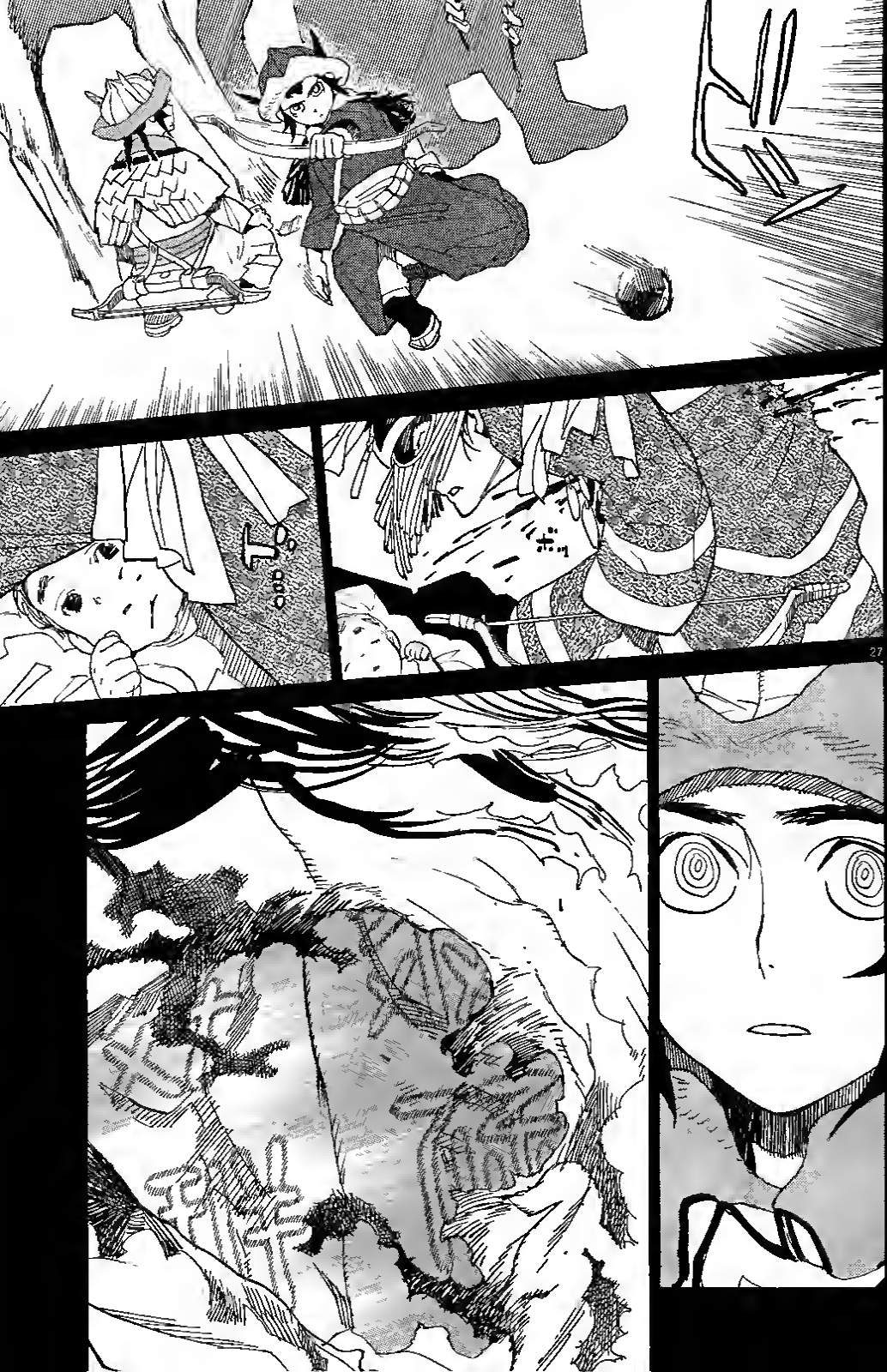

トゥイ

The Great Mongolia father will build will go on after he is gone.
Tolui, our generation will make use of it.

Yes.
The same number.

ドク
I sense a presence.
.....
That's where we hid the baby...

バッ
ヒュン
ヒュン
ヒュン
ボッ


ドゴ
ドゴ
27

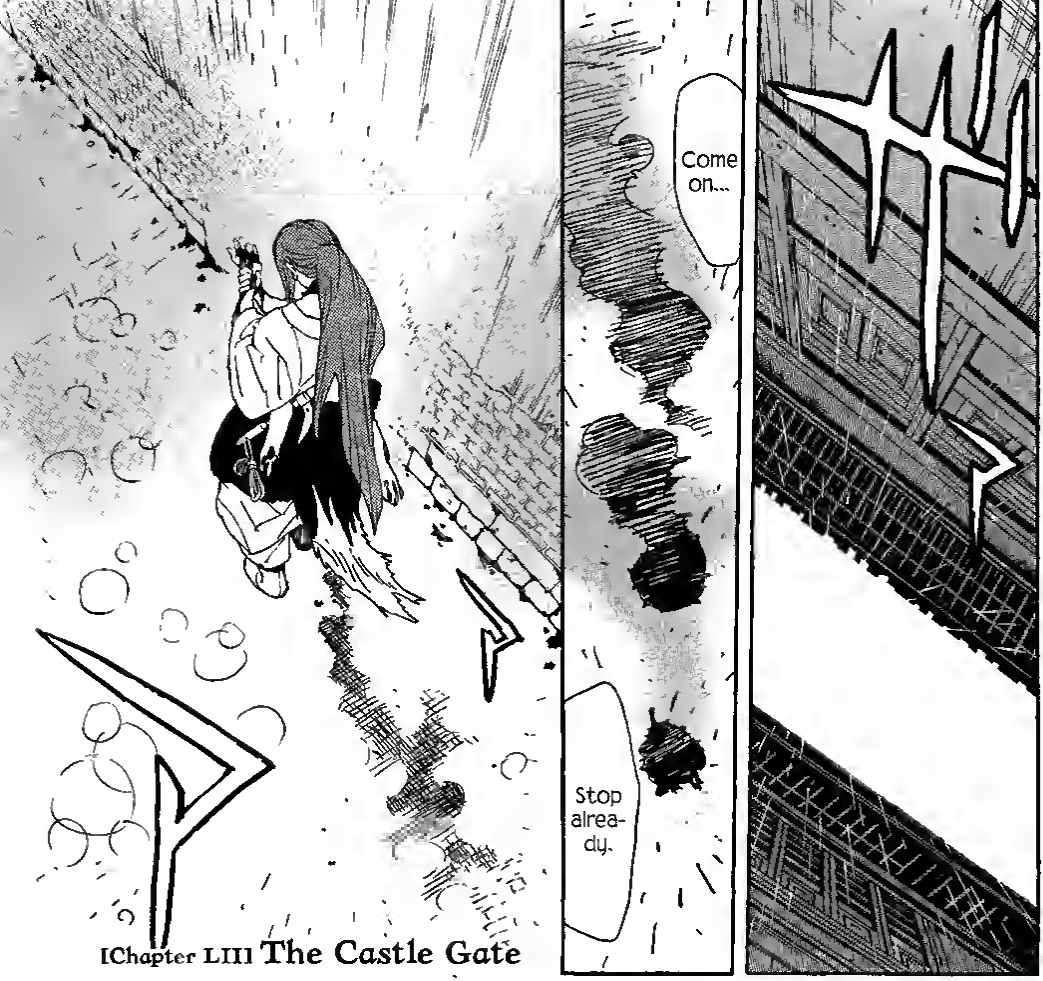
It's Tolui's victory.
Take the ears and return.
Now that I think back on it...
that was writing, wasn't it?
Tangut script...?

It's really pouring now.
Blood...?

but if there's a wounded dog about, or something of the sort, I'll have to take care.
The rain is washing it away...

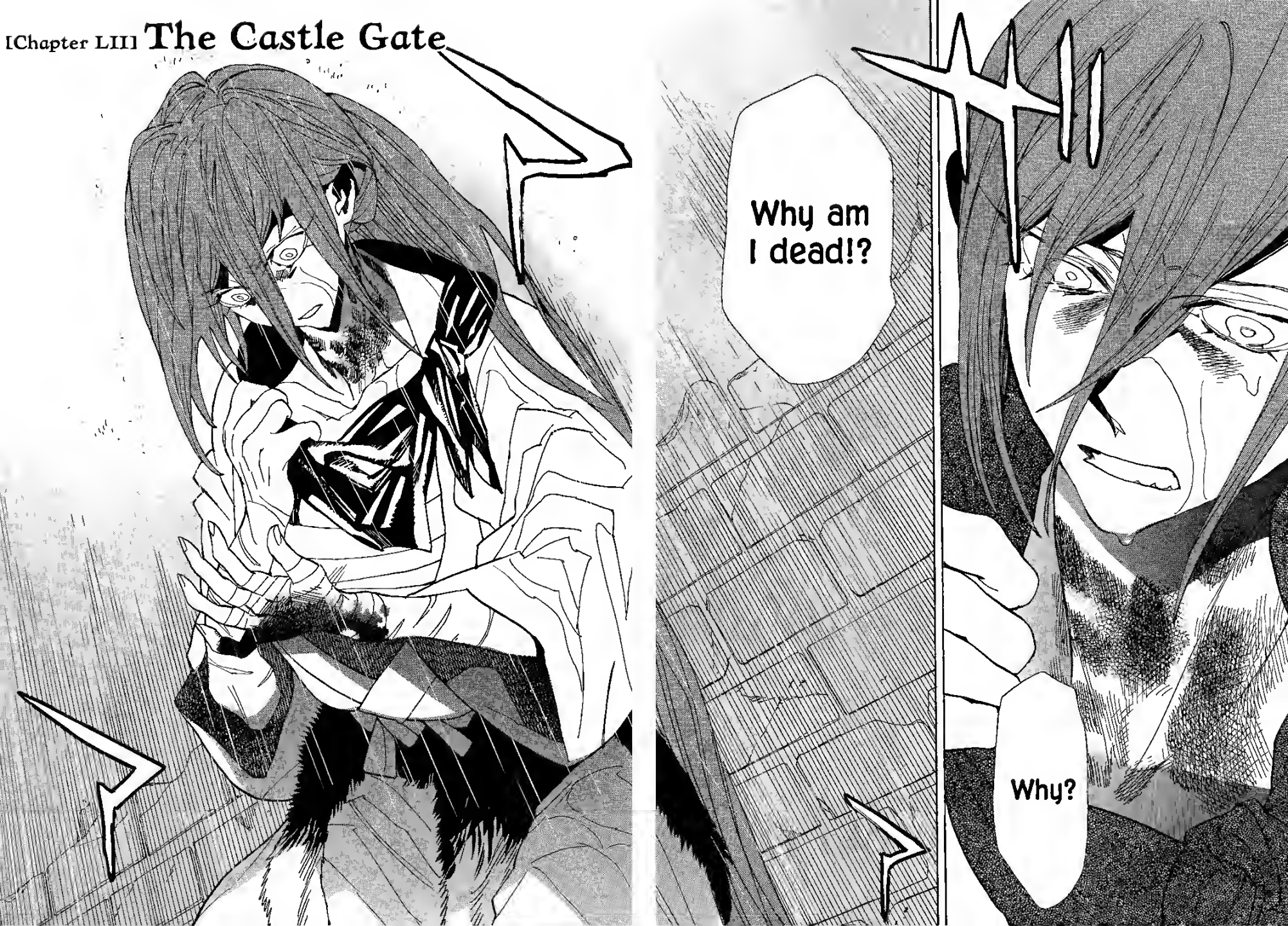
...Shut Hell...

SHUT HELL
By Itoh Yu
Translation: OtherSideofSky
Cleaning: MikaJak
Lettering: Ingledove
Quality Check:
happyscans.blogspot.com



[Chapter LIII] The Castle Gate

[Chapter LII] The Castle Gate



If you knew, it would make you sad.
Yurul.
You remembered me all this time, and yet...

!

...Shut Hell...

You're...
still caught up in killing?
NO.
!!!

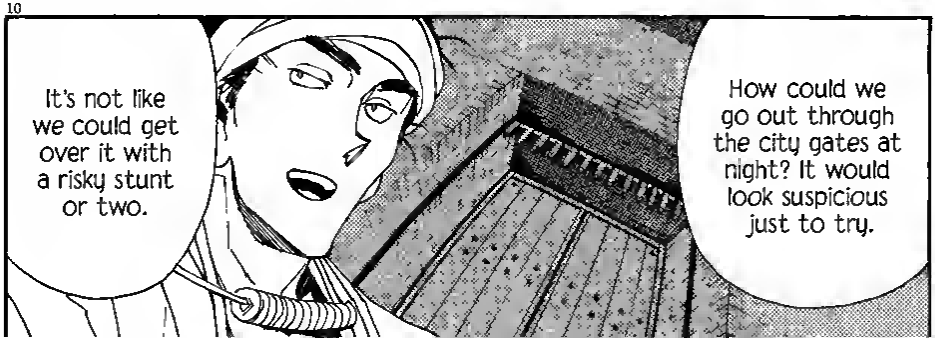
You're wrong. Now I'm

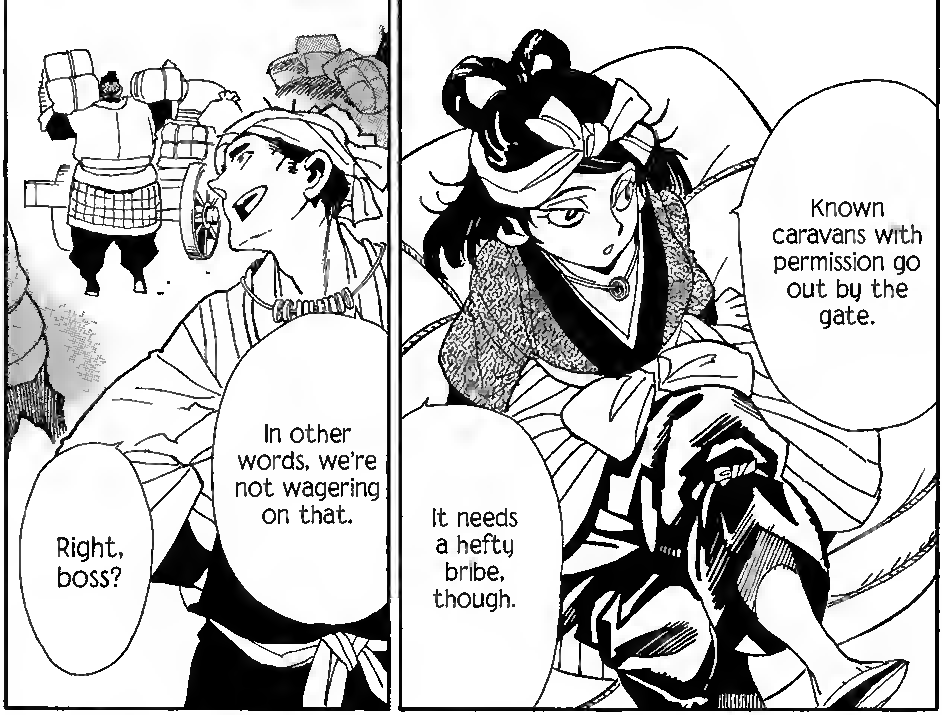
with Yurul...

Finally brought your down-payment, then?
Is that giant eagle what you're taking to Southern Song?
It certainly looks like it would fetch a good price.
You two are the last we're accepting.

She isn't here right now, but there's one more of us.
We're prepared.
Jun, in that case I don't mind taking on one more.
And your horses and food?
We won't share with you on the road.
9
Hmph. Just don't be late when we set out.
Our travel to Southern Song depends on the condition things are in. I don't know when our next trip will be.

We set out at noon tomorrow, got it?
In the middle of the day?
They carry people fleeing the conflict between the Mongols and the Jin from here in Jingzhao to the southern Song in secret.
I had assumed such people would travel under cover of night.

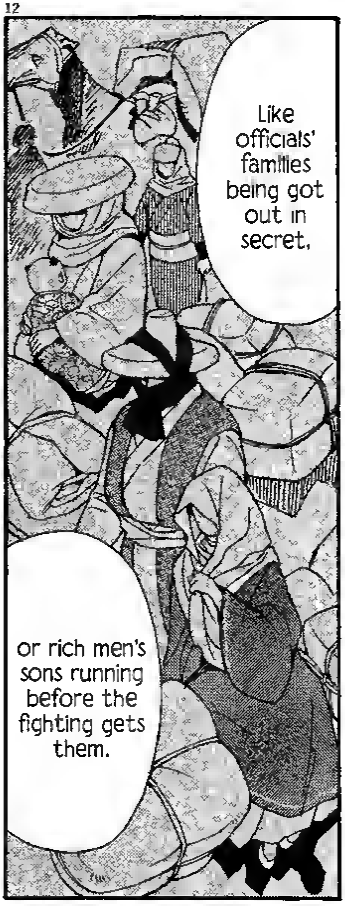

How could we go out through the city gates at night? It would look suspicious just to try.
It's not like we could get over it with a risky stunt or two.


Known caravans with permission go out by the gate.
It needs a hefty bribe, though.
In other words, we're not wagering on that.
Right, boss?

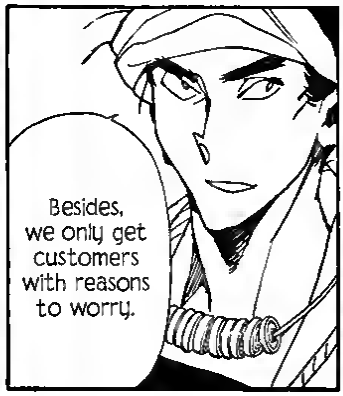
Really gets you, don't it? He's what they mean when they say a real man's silent.

If Boss Wumu over there hadn't invited us into this business, we'd have been beggars.
We haven't got land or homes or jobs.

12


Like officials' families being got out in secret,
or rich men's sons running before the fighting gets them.

Come on; I'm sure you've got a reason to be on edge, but you should relax.
So nobody will stick their nose in your business.


Besides, we only get customers with reasons to worry.

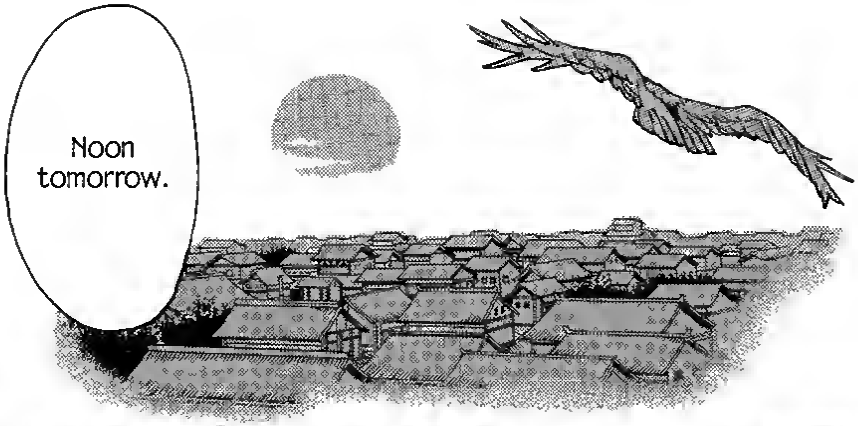
Okay...

...They're our lost customers, so they must be in dire straits even by those standards.
We don't blab about our clients' affairs.
They're a surprisingly gentle bunch. I'm relieved.
13
And one of you got thrown by that old man.
You wouldn't quit and managed to scrape together the money.
Just shy of the deadline, too.

He's got a cute face, too. Too bad about the scar, though.
He was nervous at first, but when he talked with me he smiled a little.
But the boy looks harmless enough.

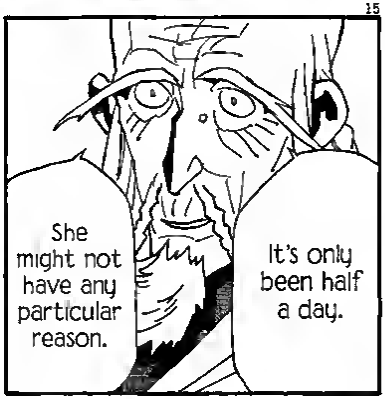
Xing, he didn't get that scar escaping.
Cute, huh?

Well...
...It's not like odd clients are a rarity, but...
He got it facing a blade head on.


Noon tomorrow.

But why hasn't she returned?

If we don't find Shut Hell soon...


She might not have any particular reason.
It's only been half a day.

...And if she does
it might not be one we would understand.

What if Shut Hell also...
Boldu.
Sudoh suddenly vanished.
...Master Yurul, the bonds between you both
cannot be so easily severed.
Do not trouble yourself.

16

Were you able to meet your important person? The one you said you'd been separated from?

...You know me...?

Have you forgotten?
Has she lost her memory...?
If she is "Shut Hell," she ought to know the whereabouts of the False Prince and the Voice of Jade.
Before she passes... I thought to hear it from her before Nalan does.
If you die still apart, that person will—

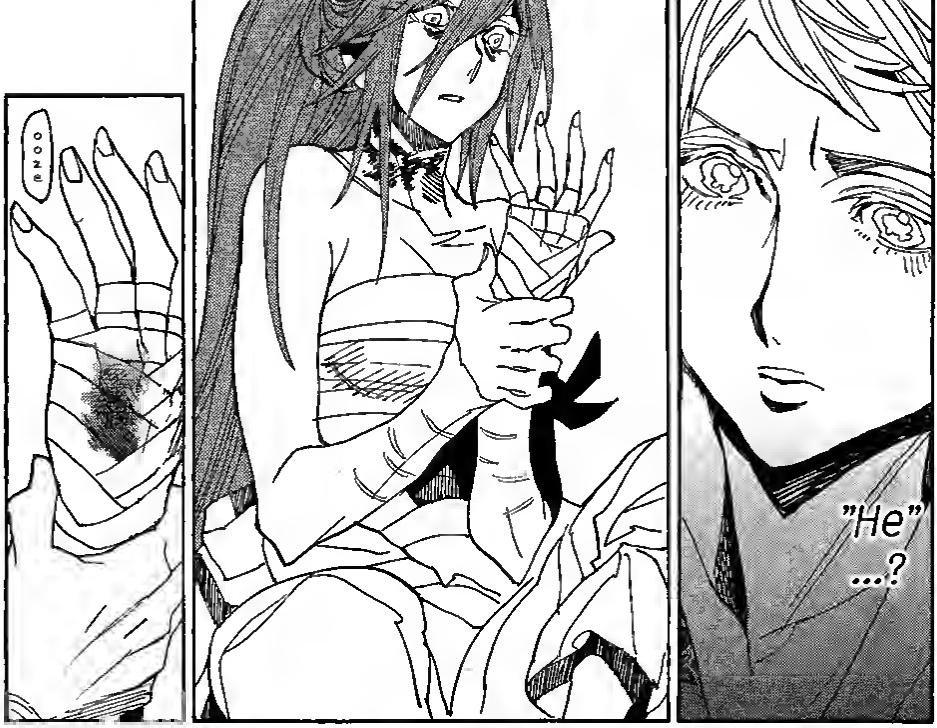
You bitch, if anything happens to Yurui, I'll—

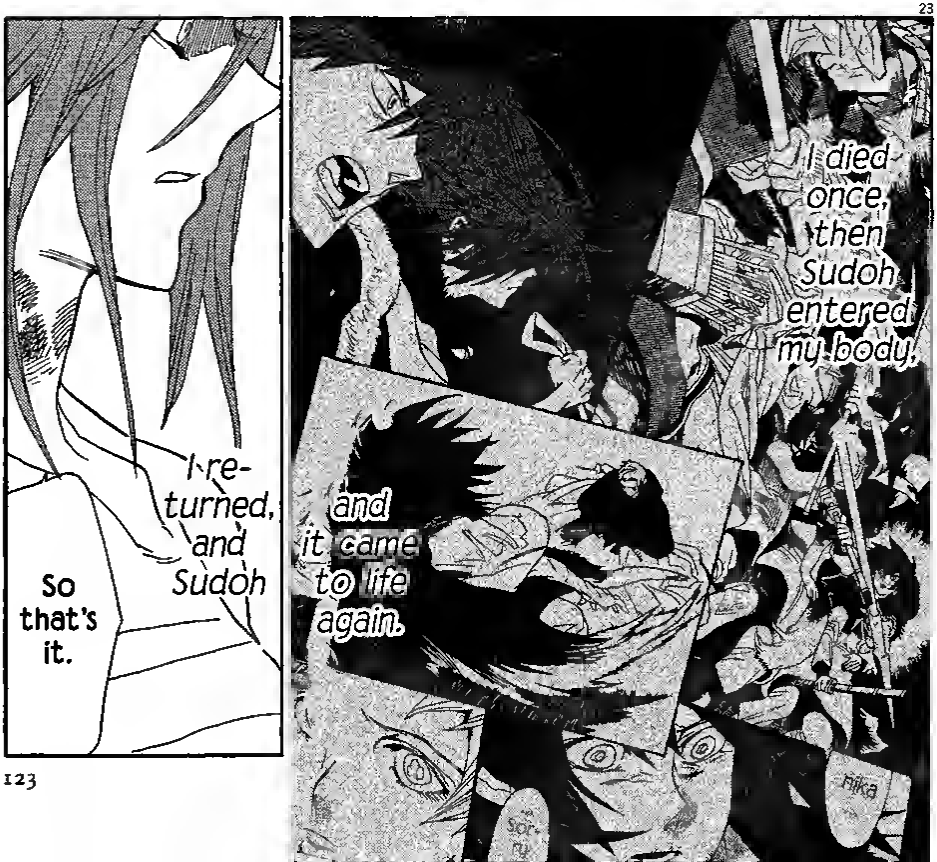
I treated the wound far more skillfully than you had.
Such cold hands...
But even so the flow of blood has not completely stopped.
Your body is not trying to heal the wound.
As if it had relinquished life.

...I don't want to die.
I was finally
able to live with him again, and now...
Do you...
believe that such a wish will come true?

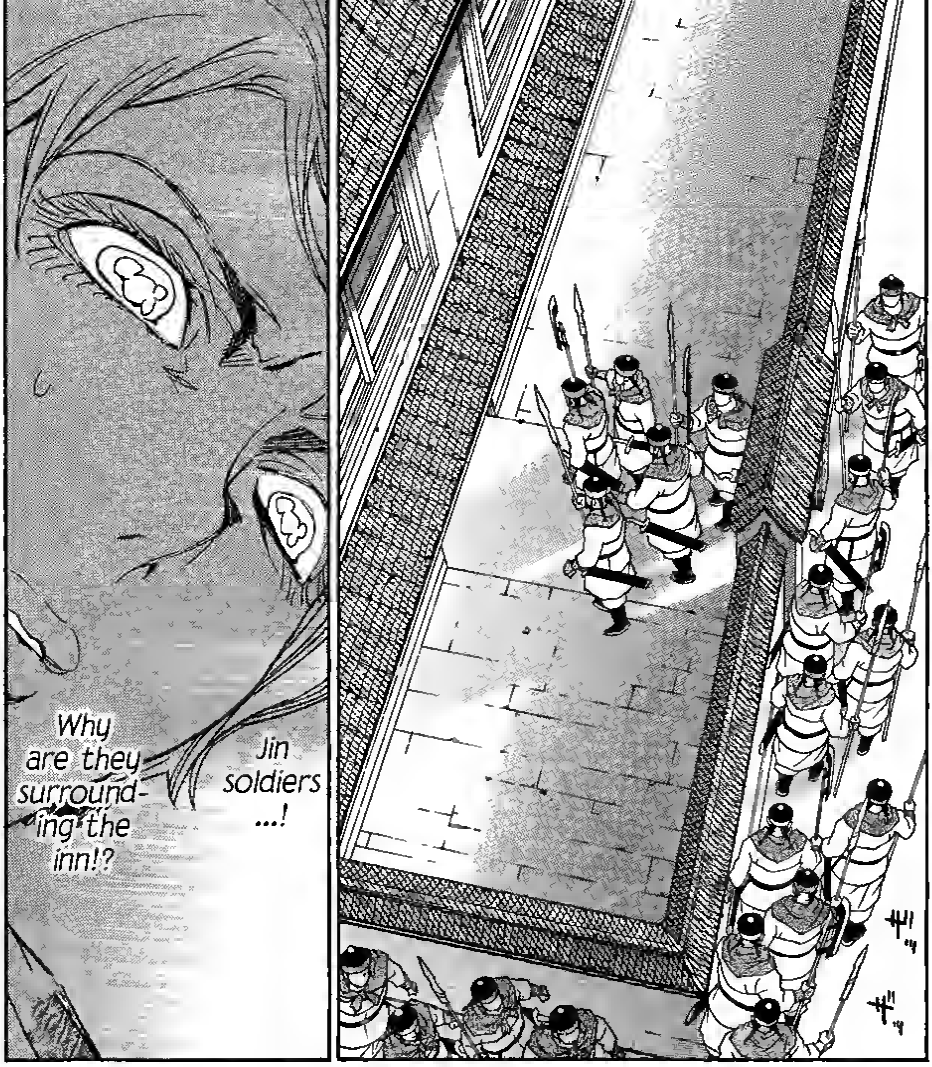
That you can spend your life killing who knows how many people,
and then live like that now?
Women like me and you can only kill and burn,
burn down to ashes, and finally be killed.
Isn't that right ...?

"burn up my old home for me...?"
"I wonder, will the Mongols
So... he met you.
...Vero-nika...?
!...

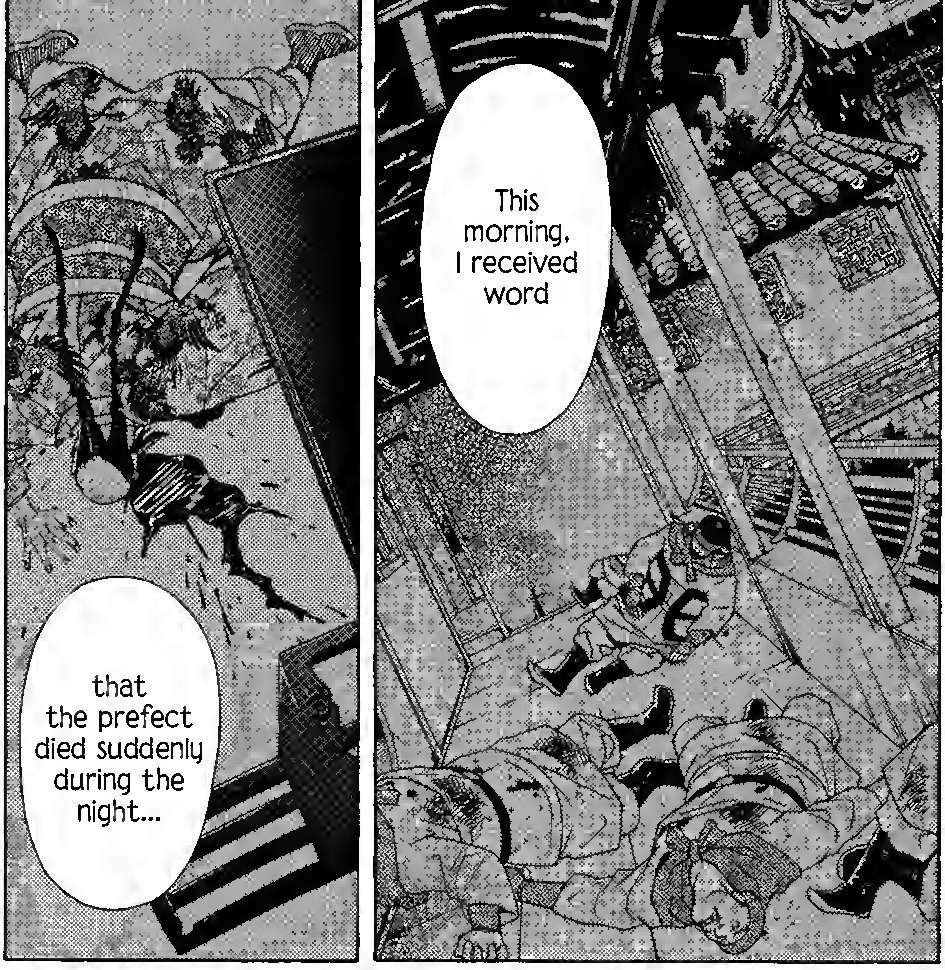

ONE
"He"
...?


So that's it.
I re-turned, and Sudoh
and it came to life again.
I died once, then Sudoh entered my body.
Rika
Sor-ry

Has she remembered something?
Will I finally be able to get it out of her...!
...It's because
he disappeared.
!
24


Why are they surrounding the inn!?
Jin soldiers ...!

As promised, I have dispatched troops to the lady's lodgings.


This morning, I received word
that the prefect died suddenly during the night...

26

I never imagined he would act so promptly.

Before long, I will surely be appointed prefect formally.
As the sub-prefect, I will take over the government of Jingzhao as acting prefect.

27

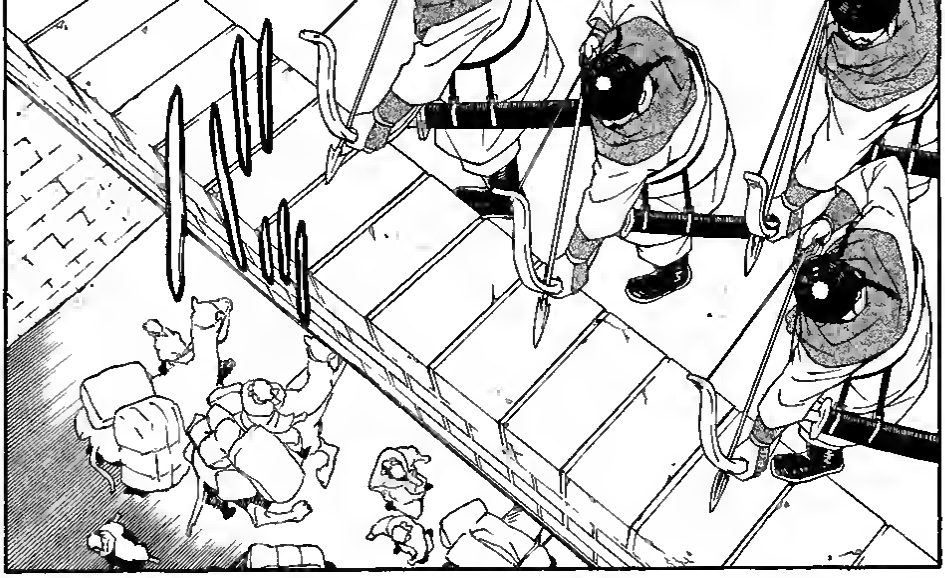
Well then, prince,

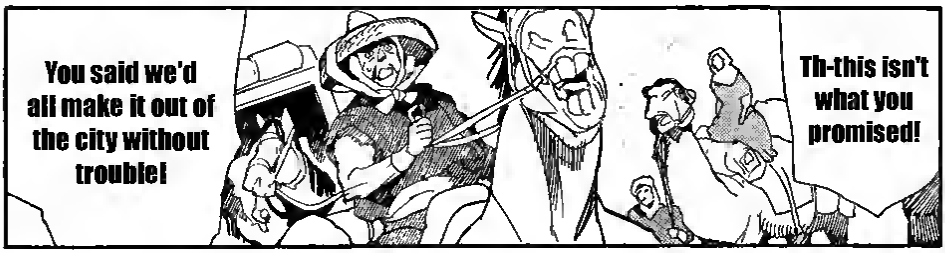
what do you desire next?

Alright, time to get moving.

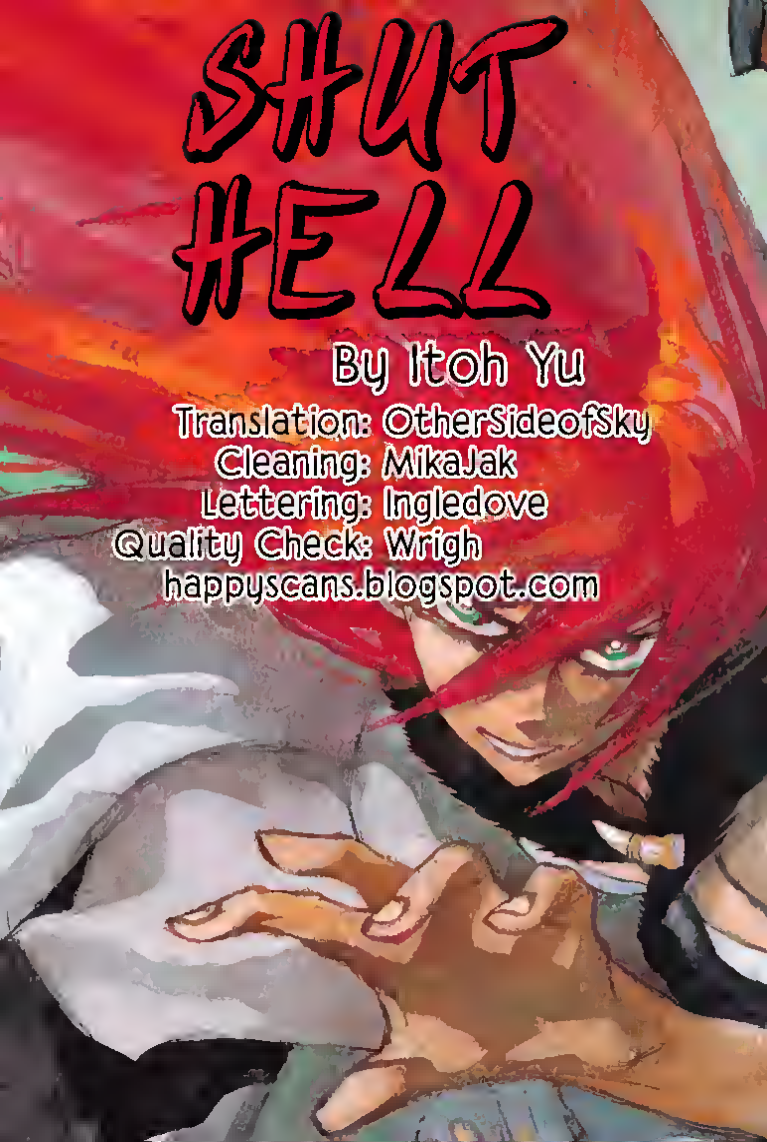
You didn't come back after all...
Shut Hell.
Everything's going like usual. Let's go.

Yenney
Wahhh!
Xing, hide yourself.
...Jun!




You said we'd all make it out of the city without trouble!
Th-this isn't what you promised!

Why is the gate shut!?


SHUT HELL
By Itoh Yu
Translation: OtherSideofSky
Cleaning: MikaJak
Lettering: Ingledove
Quality Check: Wrigh
happyscans.blogspot.com

Chapter LIII The Evil Eye

Chapter LIII The Evil Eye

Down there.

Oo...
Yang's men?

Keeping a filthy woman like her around won't do the Mongols any good.
So, Nalan, you want to get me out of the way without dirtying your own hands.
6
How many times have the Han put their countries at risk over beautiful women?
Learn what?
I guess you never learn, Prefect Yang.
Since ancient times, we Han have been lovers of female beauty.
How unfortunate.

If her corpse is pretty, you can have it.
That ought to put an end to even her venom.
Master Nalan.
Will that woman bring harm to the Mongols?
She will.
And personally, she sickens me.
Please... keep Veronika safe for me.

I don't want to let even one drop of her blood mix with ours.
More importantly, Melumi,

the gates are sealed.
I'll be able to see my little brother's face soon.

We ought to have been able to go through the gate easily...
Why were there soldiers lying in wait for us!?

Boldu, let's go.
We'd better get away from the gate.
Ah!

ドロロ
ドロ
10
Master Yurul!

That boy is surrounded!
But...
Run, old man! It's not safe.
!
What the...? That's a lot of men for one child.
It's almost as if...
they were after Master Yurui from the start.

ドサ
ザシュ
ヒュッ
ヒュッ
Is my mind playing tricks on me?
She's been covering for me the whole time.

Lady Vero-nika!
Shut Hell ...!?

!?
Vero-
nika!
If you see him... If you see Sudoh,

tell him that meeting you saved me!
ドゴッ

CAW!
If they take the Voice of Jade from my back... it's all over.
Please don't kill the brat.

My orders were to let him and the others live, and bring them along with that bundle.

Alunge ...!

Heh heh
Heh.
Hey.
There's somebody who'll give you more.

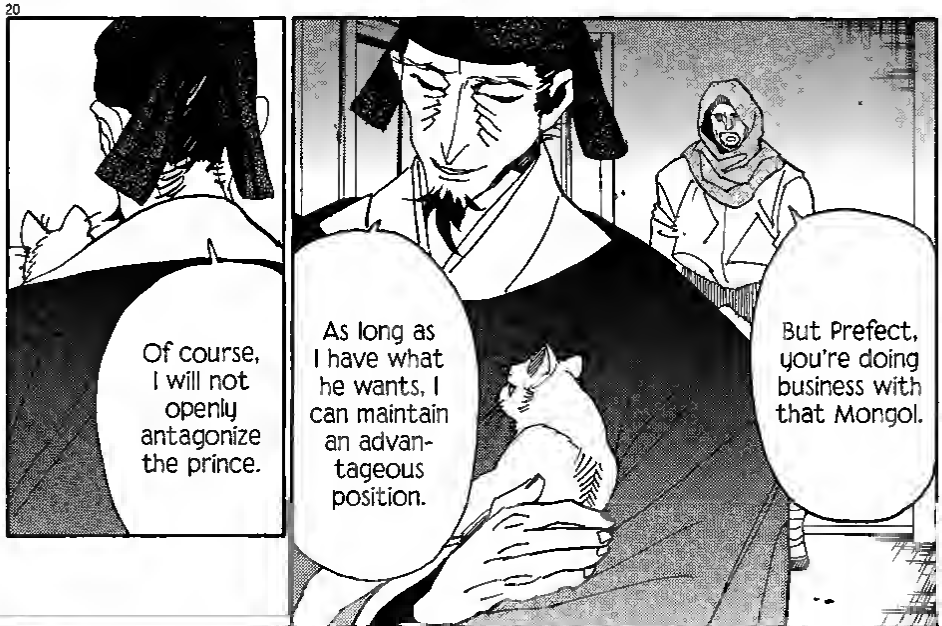
That Mongol said he was looking for something,
didn't he, Mr. Alunge?
Yes, sir.

I believe you said you were in Lanzhou?
Yes, sir.
Slabs of jade and the boy who bears them...
and you say you happen to know them...
Pardon my saying so but perhaps that was a stroke of misfortune.

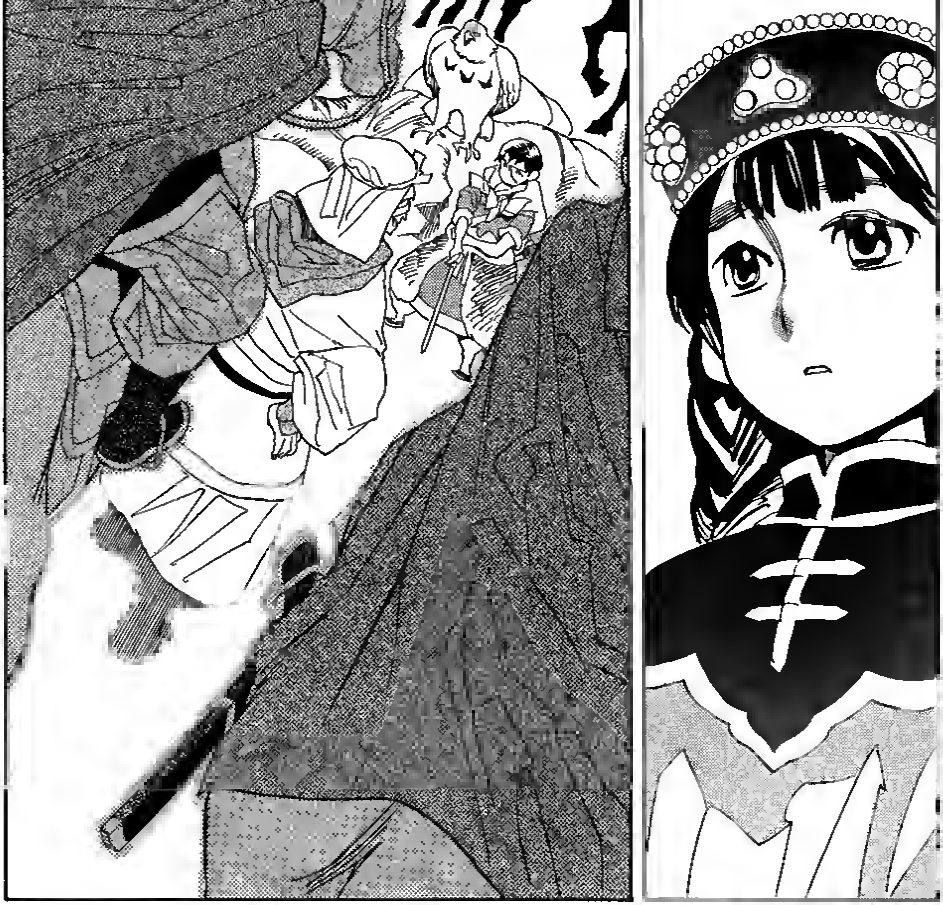
I hate to say it, but Sir Jilgus was an obstinate fellow.
Whether it was spotting opportunities, or spotting people, you could hardly have called him clever.
If he had been, a fine man like yourself
wouldn't be scrounging spare change from a Mongol.
"Fine"...? Me?
Mr. Alunge, would you conduct your search, not for the Mongols, but for me?
In this city you can make your name serving your fatherland.
Of course, you will receive sufficient compensation.

To think that the Mongol prince was searching for something.
And he used Jingzhao troops and had the city gates shut to get it.

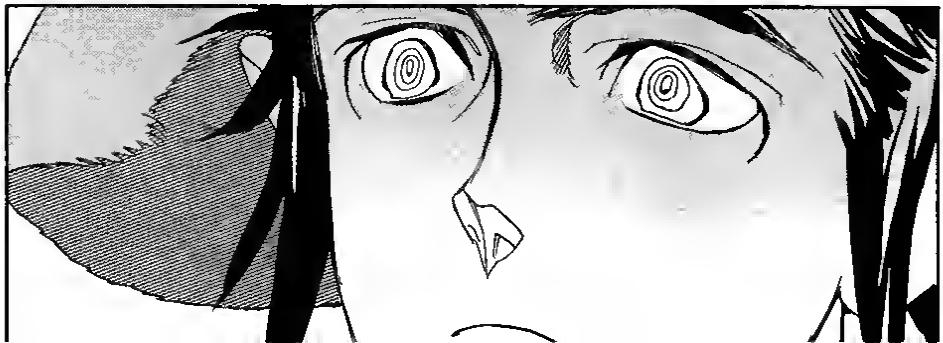
Well, I'll just take it first.

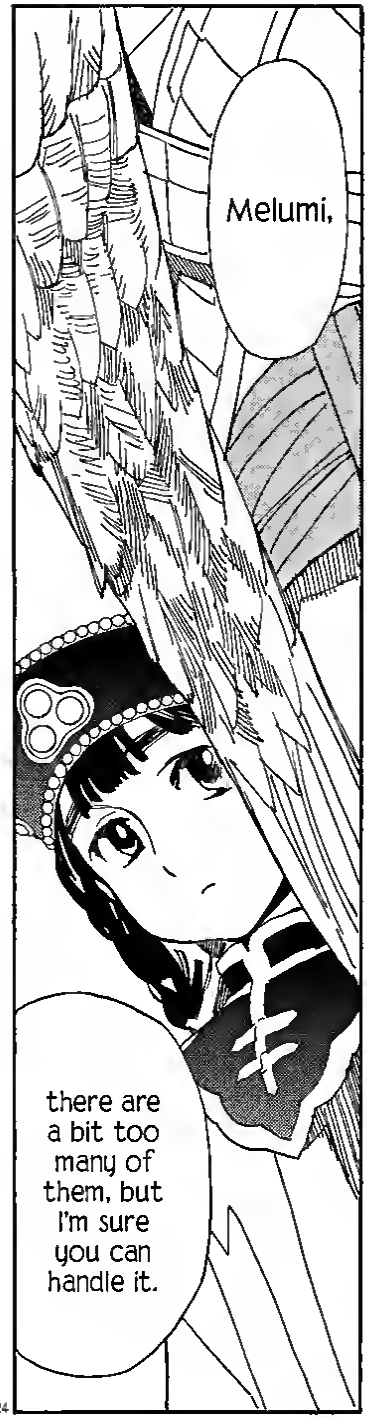

But Prefect, you're doing business with that Mongol.
As long as I have what he wants, I can maintain an advantageous position.
Of course, I will not openly antagonize the prince.

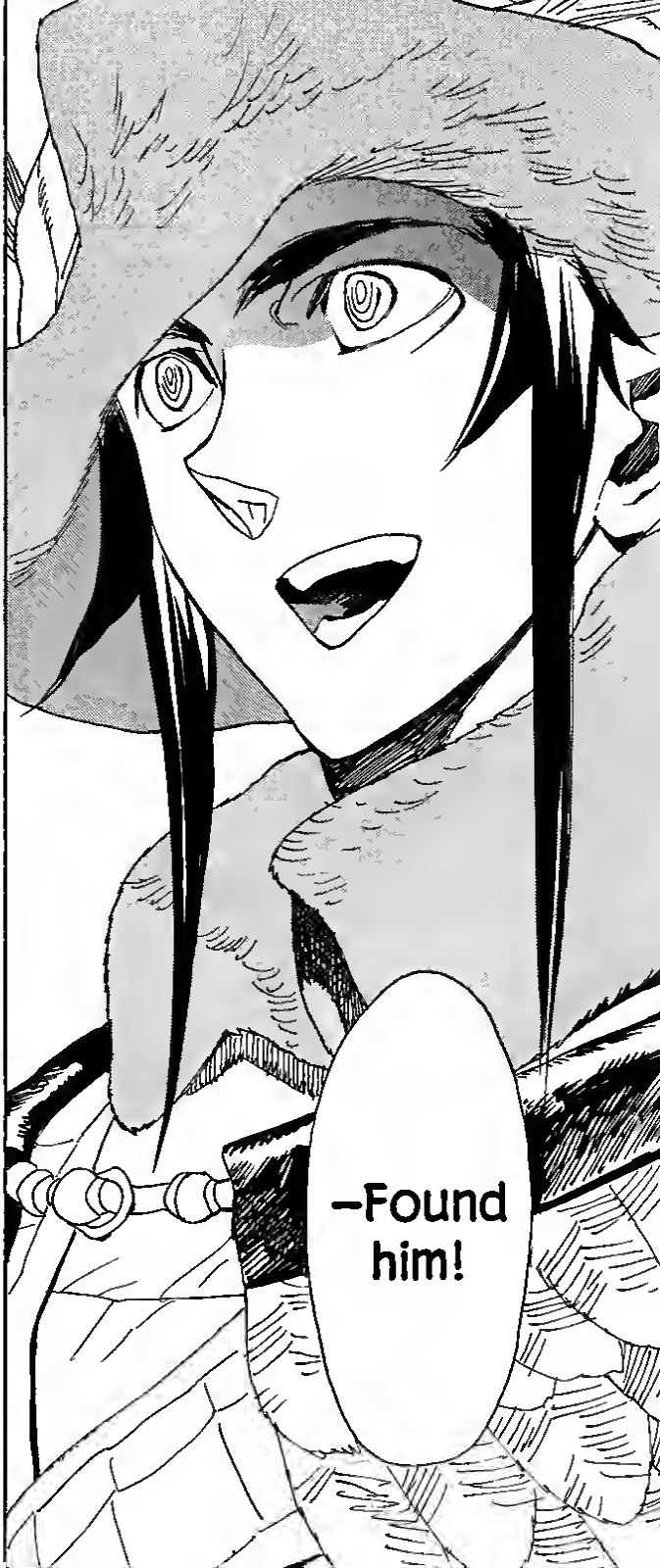
If he finds out... I'll cross that bridge when I come to it.
I can just say that Alunge, or whatever he's called, acted on his own initiative, and give the prince his head.
I never imagined so many would turn out.
Oh?
Although I'm glad they at least managed to shut the gates.
That man...



There's no dog with him today...




Melumi,
there are a bit too many of them, but I'm sure you can handle it.


–Found him!

I need to carry him off.
but I don't want to attack Jin soldiers here in broad daylight.
Yes, my lord.
!?

Ahh!
What the–!? The horses!
Gyaa ahh!
What is it!? Whats going on!?

Alright, he's out of their circle.
cough
cough
You were a big help.

Now I'll snatch him.

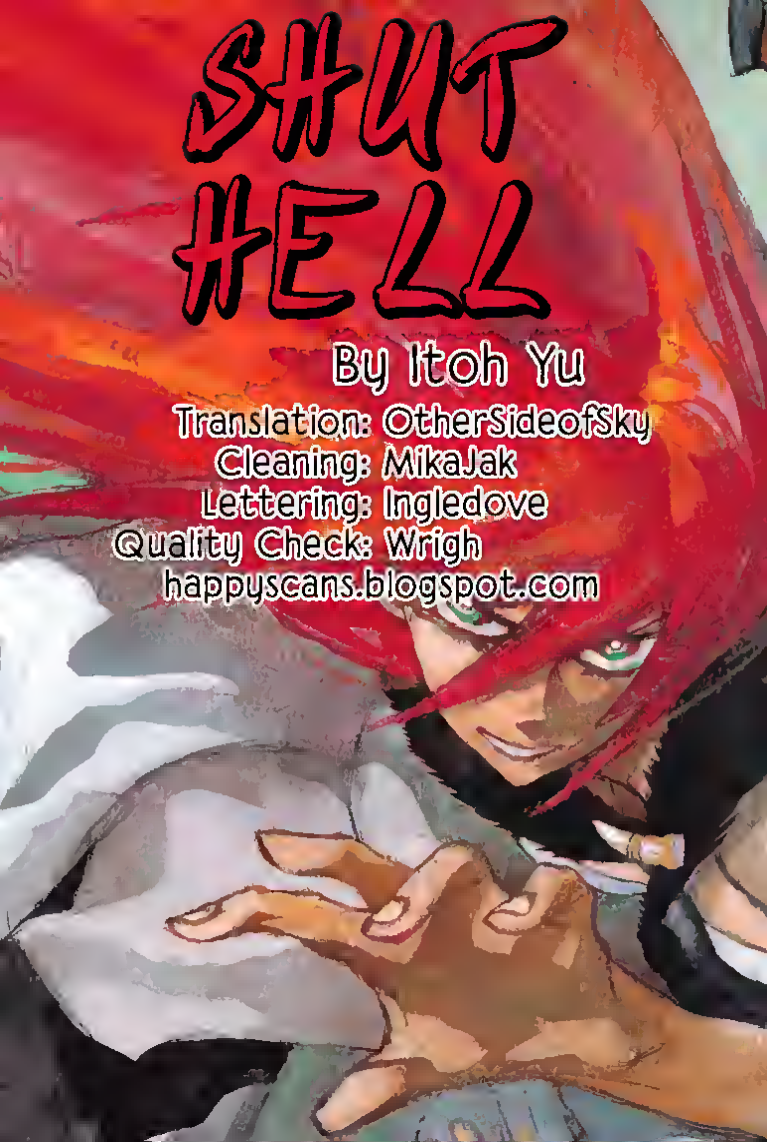
29

28

Yu ruu ul!
30
"Shut Hell"...?
Shut Hell!?
...It wasn't a dog.
I've made a horrible mistake.

Thank goodness! I was worried about you.
Are you hurt?
31
Yurul, right?
We'll run to a big street, mingle with the crowd and abandon the horses.
It's nothing.

I knew those eyes of yours at a glance.
I've come to collect you.
Like Yurui's eyes...
This man... They look alike ...?


SHUT HELL
By Itoh Yu
Translation: OtherSideofSky
Cleaning: MikaJak
Lettering: Ingledove
Quality Check: Wrigh
happyscans.blogspot.com

"Those spiral-patterned eyes..."
"The eyes of the monster, they gobbled up the fingers I need to draw a bow."
"Those eyes of Yurul's are monster's eyes."
[Chapter LIV] The King's Flaw
"That monster swallowed the Tsog whole..."
You and me
You can tell, can't you, little brother?

You and the Voice of Jade.
But you don't have to run anymore, Yurul. Your big brother is here to protect you.
because the Mongols are trying to wipe out the Tangut script.
You fled our people clutching those jade tablets covered in Tangut writing,
share the same blood.

[Chapter LIV] The King's Flaw

Yes, I'm sure you think so.
If this man is a Mongol, he'd never try to protect you.
Lies.

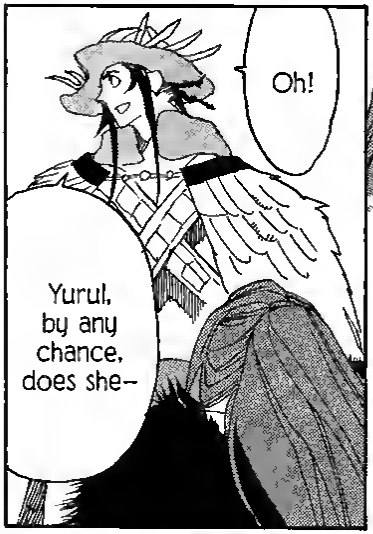
It's for the best.
Now is the time for the Mongols to menace their surroundings.

But a new era will come.
5
...Sudoh...
I suppose you mean to be my brother's bodyguard.
You're injured, right?

Where is Su-doh...?
Although I respect your dedication.
You seem awfully weak to be called "Shut Hell."
He'll be fine without you now.

The strength to run...!
Give me the strength to stand!
Sudoh...!
But maybe you couldn't help not being able to protect him?
After all, Yurui has a big brother to look after him from now on.

...Oh, for your own sake, then?


Oh!
Yurul, by any chance, does she--

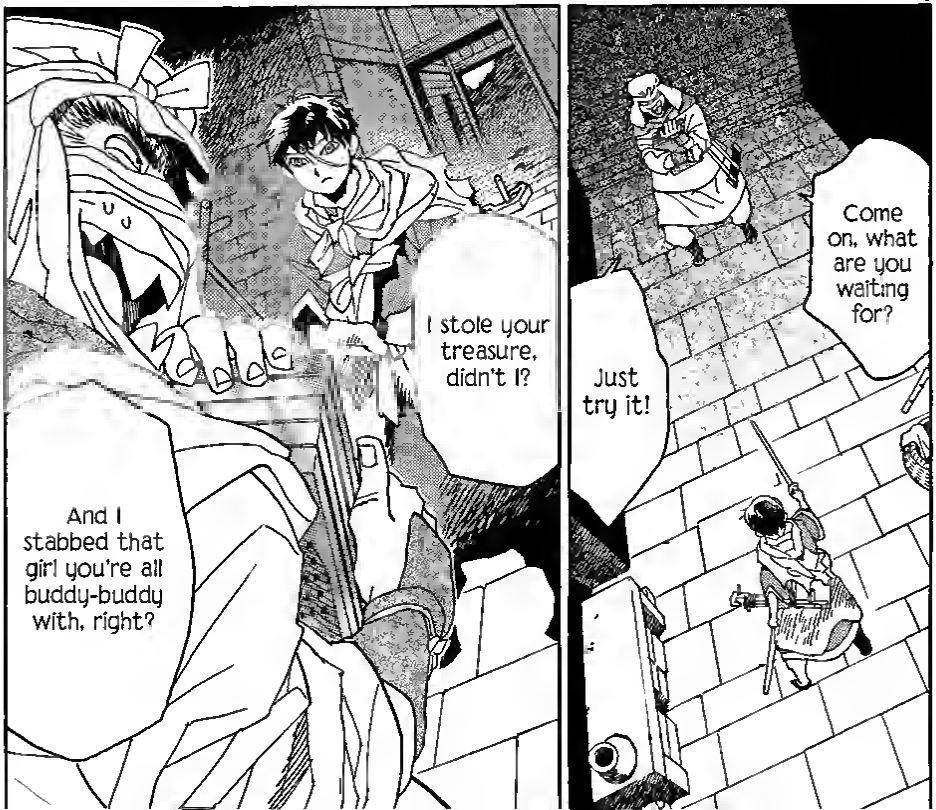
... Never.

8

Yurul?

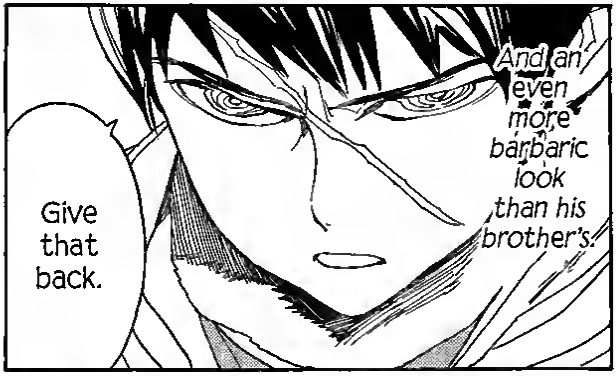
Alunge, wait!

...Shut Hell's hand... I wonder if it's alright.
He used the opening to tear open the bundle and steal the tablets, damn him.


I stole your treasure, didn't I?
And I stabbed that girl you're all buddy-buddy with, right?
Just try it!
Come on, what are you waiting for?

Don't you ever use your hands or your words to do anything but attack and extort?
I truly...
don't understand you.
Is this all you've ever done? All you plan to go on doing...?
!
Heh...

Ah, I see. They do look alike.

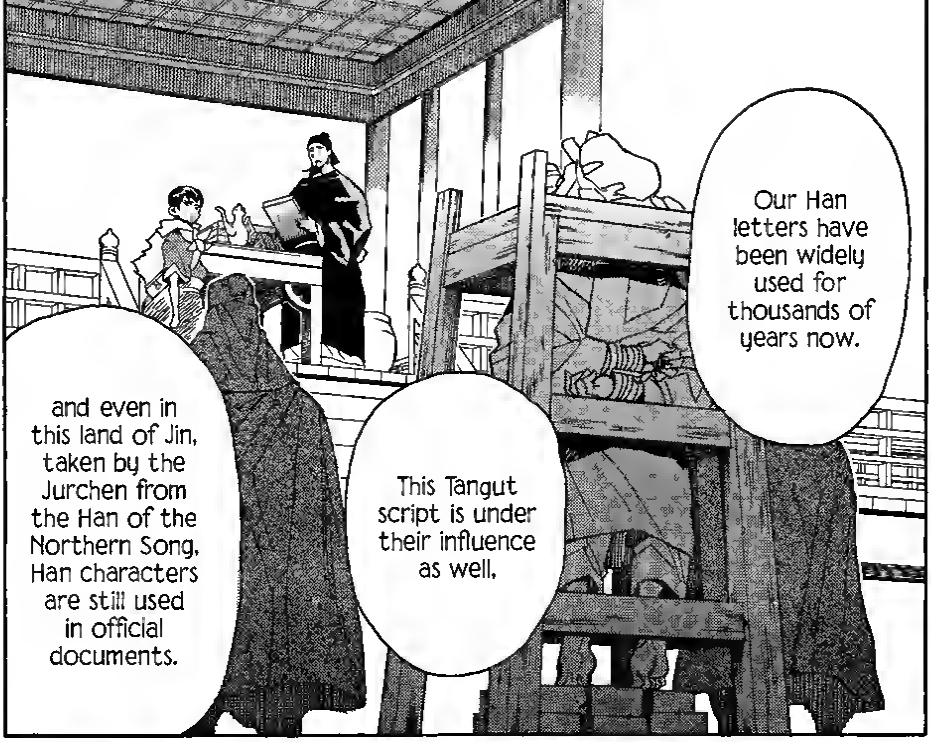

Give that back.
And an even more barbaric look than his brother's.

A frontal wound, though he's only a boy.

What were they thinking, carving such provincial letters into these magnificent jades.
Truly an unfortunate blemish.

It's important to me.
Even though it's been a mere century or two since the Tangut script came into being.
and it is used only in such a small land.
I'm on your side.

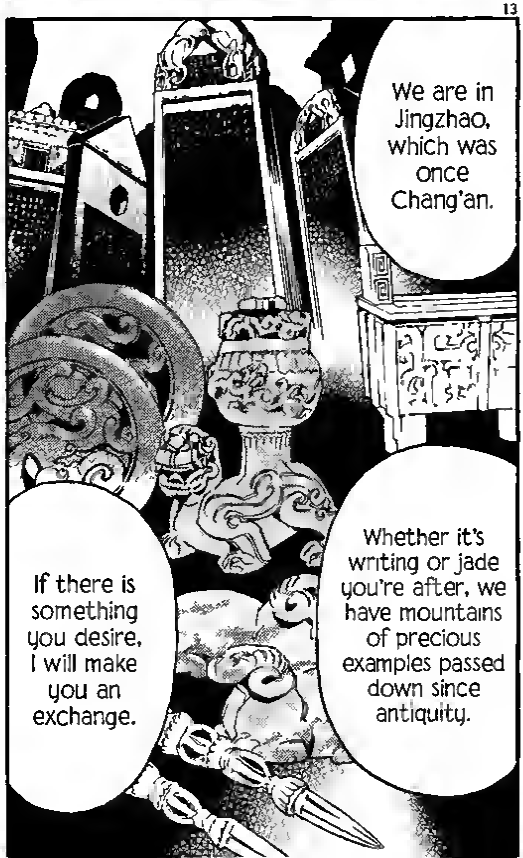
I had the thief apprehended, did I not?
Still, what reason could the prince have to search for a thing like this...?


Our Han letters have been widely used for thousands of years now.
This Tangut script is under their influence as well.
and even in this land of Jin, taken by the Jurchen from the Han of the Northern Song, Han characters are still used in official documents.

13

I don't want them.

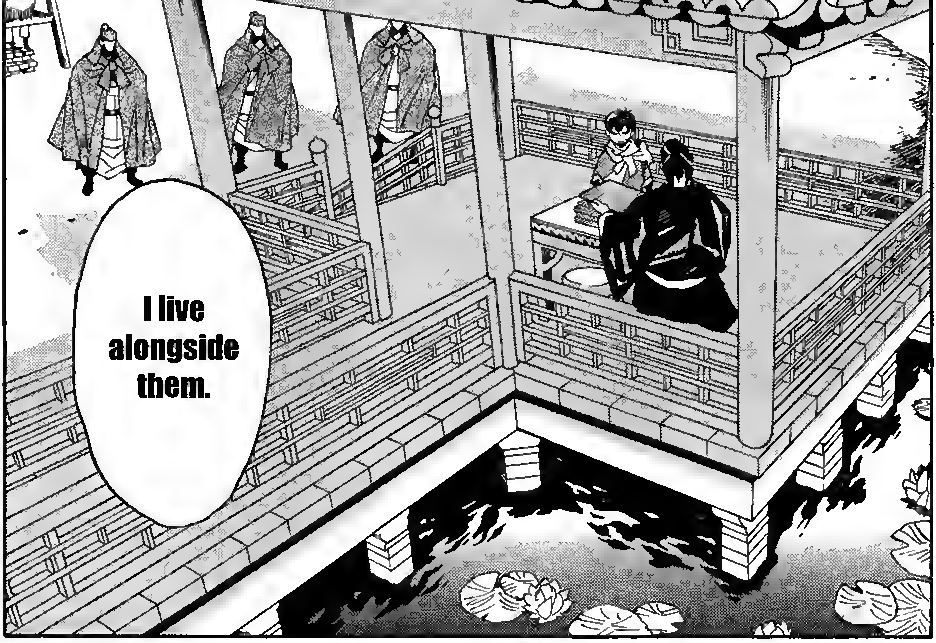
Why?
It is not as if you cannot make sense of Han writing.


We are in Jingzhao, which was once Chang'an.
Whether it's writing or jade you're after, we have mountains of precious examples passed down since antiquity.
If there is something you desire, I will make you an exchange.

It would be one thing if you were drawn to our Han writing,
but why would a Mongol prince care for the letters of Western Xia?
If you view it as an appraiser, I doubt you'll ever understand.
14
These are the characters my mother taught me... and the ones she used to remember her friends' names.
Ifa loved the name, and...
...When my brother wrote my name in the sand,
her fingers...
9 5
10 6
7
8
They brought me back to life.
2

Since her fingers traced them,

There are things that I can only express through it,
and feelings that I can only convey with these characters.
this has been my writing.


I live alongside them.

So, true to your age, you want it merely for your own sake.
Pardon me. I'd thought you might have some grand idea.
Ha...

16

From dangerous brigands like that one, for instance.
Prince, I desire only to protect both you and these tablets.

I hear that he has caused you trouble more than once.
Surely you wish to punish him.
Feel free to hurt him, or even to run him through at a stroke.

Take yourself...
I suppose this is the end you chose.
... Alunge.

Mph!
and run off some-where.
メリ!

That way...?
Huh?
The Mongol brat's in it with him!
Defend the prefect!

A sling stone!!?
Ugh!

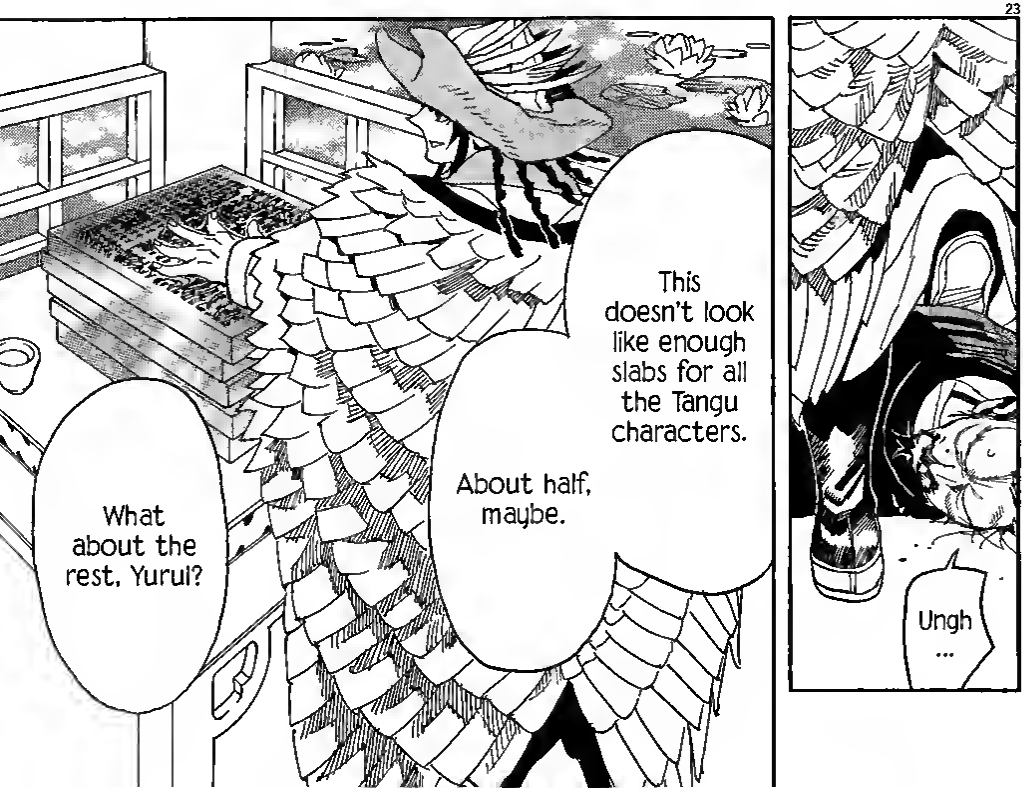
Wai–
You made a damn fool of me...!

You made a fool of me, you bastard!
Take that! and that!
And you're the same!
Don't be so full of yourself!
Always looking down at me... mocking me!

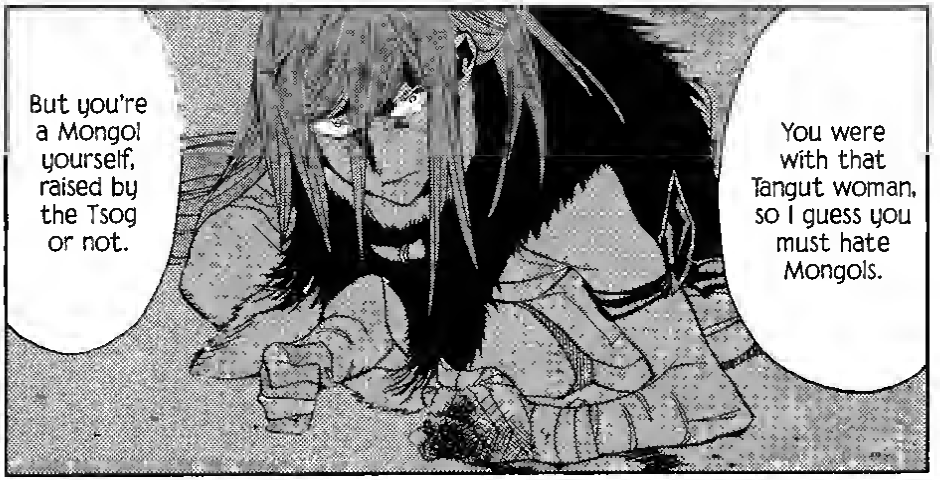
Save one, kill one.
Meaning-less, huh, Yurul?

How about you call me "bro-ther"?
For the stone just now, and...
...Thank you very much.

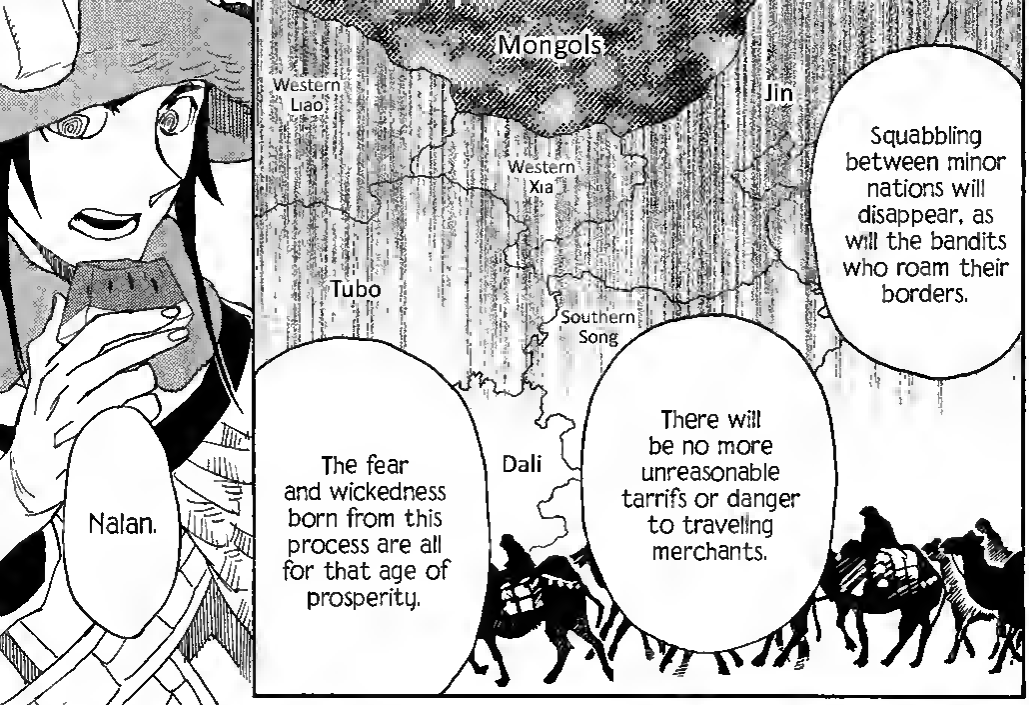
I had one brother, but other than him...
Nalan's fine then.
I didn't come here to fight.
Let's have a proper talk.


Ungh ...
This doesn't look like enough slabs for all the Tangu characters.
About half, maybe.
What about the rest, Yurul?

I wonder if he got away safely.
I don't know.
Boldu...
.....


But you're a Mongol yourself, raised by the Tsog or not.
You were with that Tangut woman, so I guess you must hate Mongols.

24
This is in order to stabilize the world under a unifying Mongol rule.
Right now, the Mongols are in a period of conquest, instilling fear all around.
Shut Hell...!


Mongols
Western Liao
Jin
Western Xia
Tubo
Southern Song
Dali
Squabbling between minor nations will disappear, as will the bandits who roam their borders.
There will be no more unreasonable tarrifs or danger to traveling merchants.
The fear and wickedness born from this process are all for that age of prosperity.
Nalan.

We're not talking about some monster called "the Mongols";
You're a group of people, the same as any other country.
I might fear them or regret what they do, but I've given up hating them as a group.
But I don't want to be killed just because it's the way the times are going.
And I don't want things precious to me burned. That's all.

Sooner or later, the Mongols will consume even the Southern Song, the land you're hanging your hopes on.
What will you do then? Throw it into the sea rather than let it be burned?
The Great Khan of the Mongols is still a man.
When that day comes, he will be old and frail.
Well said.
splat
If they obey him now out of fear,
then those close to the Khan will turn on him in his old age... and that will be the end of the Mongols.
Yes, the "Great Khan" of the Mongols must go on being feared forever.
The writing of the Tangut, the Voice of Jade...

a crack in my great father...
If, by some chance, there was
If he were to have even a single little blemish to suggest otherwise...
That card belongs in my and Tolui's hands.
I'll be forced to make him stand down.
Little brother, you are needed.
It is for the sake of the Mongols that we must yield to the next generation.
We Mongols would have to verify it for ourselves,
and elect a new khan before the world could learn of it...

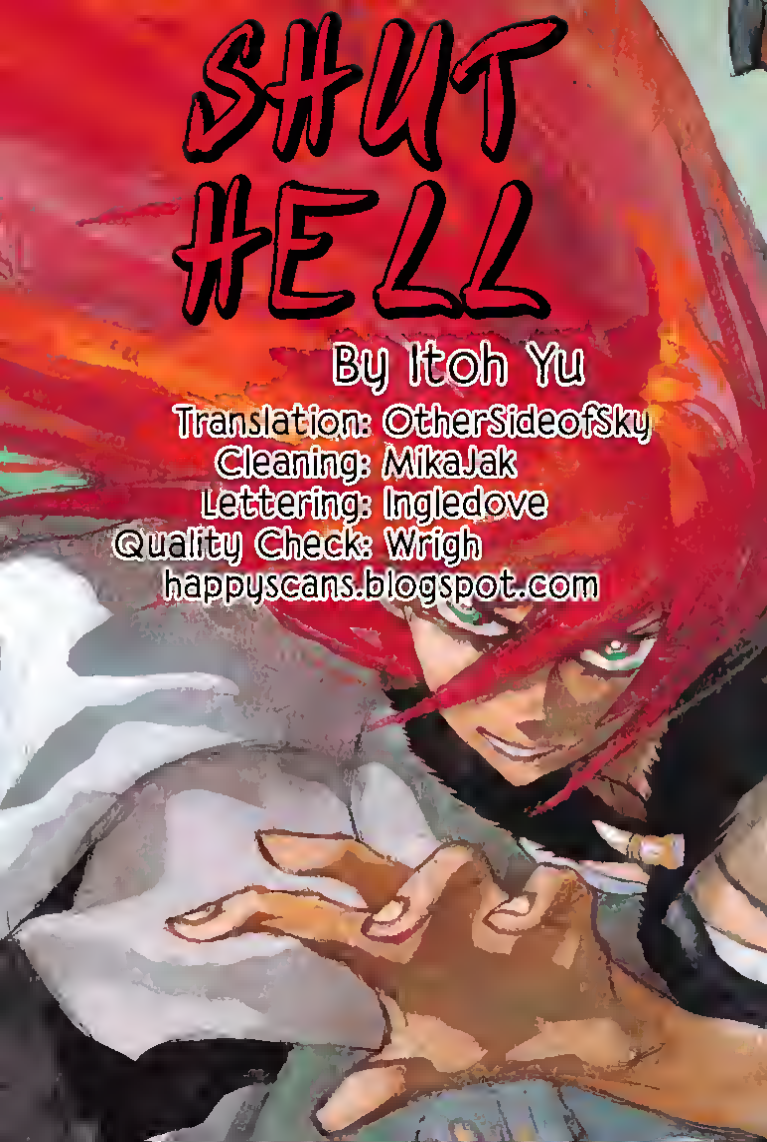
The main Mongol army will attack the Jin capital of Zhongdu.
You'd best remember that the other half is already on its way there.
!!
And I'll take charge of the half that's here.
ドン!

Someone... Call someone...
Urgh
Nalan ...
Ach.
As I thought, you have seen my lord's back...
Boo

ぐっちゃ
ぐ…
ぐっちゃ
ぐっちゃ
ぐ
ぐ…
ぐっちゃ

32

SHUT HELL CONTINUES IN VOLUME 9...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